

# PLAYBOY

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2011

ENTERTAINMENT FOR MEN

## RESORTS WORLD

WHAT IS ESSENTIAL IS INVISIBLE  
TO THE EYE

## POINTS ON POKER

**HIV** WHERE IT'S HIDING  
AND HOW  
IT'S GROWING

*Interview*

**ROBERT  
DOWNEY JR.**

*20 Questions*  
**WILLIAM  
SHATNER**

*Paloma  
Esmeria*

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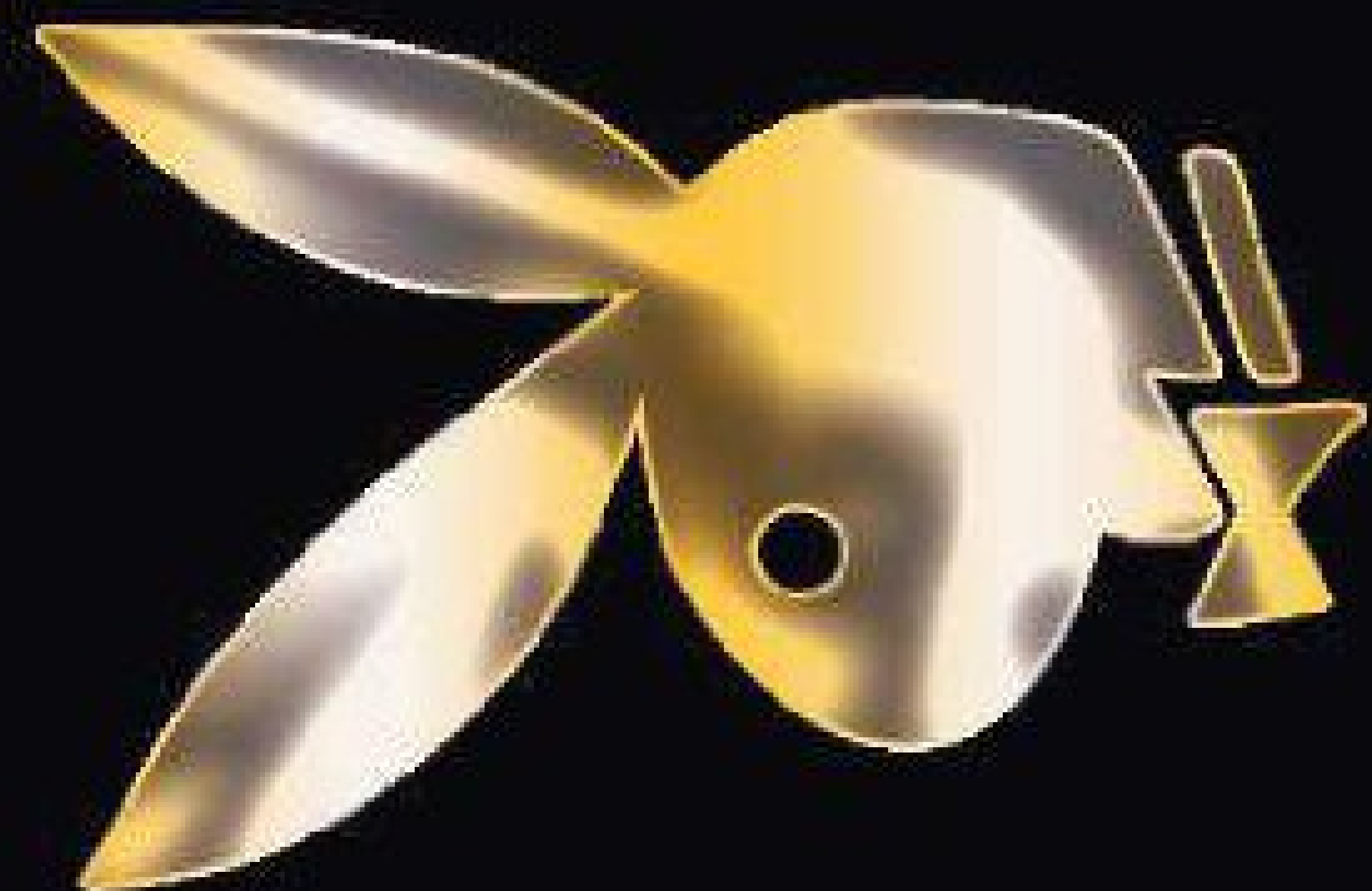
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AND ABOVE

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*This April... We Celebrate*

*Dear  
Three*

*Masquerade  
Ball....*



## PLAYBILL



**Regina Layug Rosero** prefers to be called a geek who happens to write. But "freelance writer" will do in a pinch. She loves Star Wars and costuming with a passion, and currently has cats instead of babies ruling her household. She still believes in world peace, the RH bill and magic tricks. Whatever you do, don't call her Reg, or you'll get a knife in your throat. Really.



**Carl Raton** is a 20-something eccentric who took the path less beaten. She got lucky and serendipitously found a 6 ft. tall man who raised her on a pedestal. She now cradles in her arms a fragile 5 yr. old and wishes that she too would someday separate from the collective.



**Carlos Magno** is a writer for a boutique ad agency by day and a singer for the alternative urban band Out of Body Special by night. His latest preoccupation is building the all-OPM online radio and music website SariSariSounds.com, a project he has been seriously thinking about since mid-2008. He enjoys Cuba Libre, rainy afternoons and getting home safe and sound. Monitor his activities on @obsmusic and @sarisarisounds.



**Marvin Covar** is an amateur boxer who has a 2-0 record and a freelance writer. He is a Kalayaan College Journalism graduate whose turn-ons include long walks on the beach, conversations regarding feelings and candlelit dinners. His turn-offs include arrogance, nitpickers and gossip. He hopes to one day find a woman who will lovingly make him a sandwich... while naked.



**Mark Shandii Bacolod** is dubbed as the 'bitch director' amongst his friends. Bitch for being outspoken, articulate, intimidating (first impression) & fashionable. And the latter for being a film, TV and fashion show director. His directorial films include the controversial *Ben & Sam*, the family drama entitled *Fidel*, his first and only short film called *5 Minutes* and his latest work, *Sponsor*, that talks about the three major elements of an indie film namely sex, poverty and violence. For TV, he directed the Vizconde Massacre episode of GMA-7's docu-drama *Case Unclosed*. He styled and directed the recently concluded Lingerie Fashion Show of PLAYBOY Philippines in Hyatt Hotel. Besides Styling & Directing, he also works for Bellhaus Entertainment as the company's Artist Manager. He dreams of becoming a housewife someday, no pun intended.



**Monina Eugenio** is a 20-something writer by trade. This indie music junkie is intensely passionate about travel, meaningful conversations and coffee. She engages in mountain climbing and, just last year, achieved a personal goal by summiting Luzon's highest peak, Mt. Pulag.





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Poker has arguably become the most popular card game over the past decade. Here's a look at poker's history and its recent resurgence care of PLAYBOY staff writer **Mikey "Billy B" Abola**.

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2008



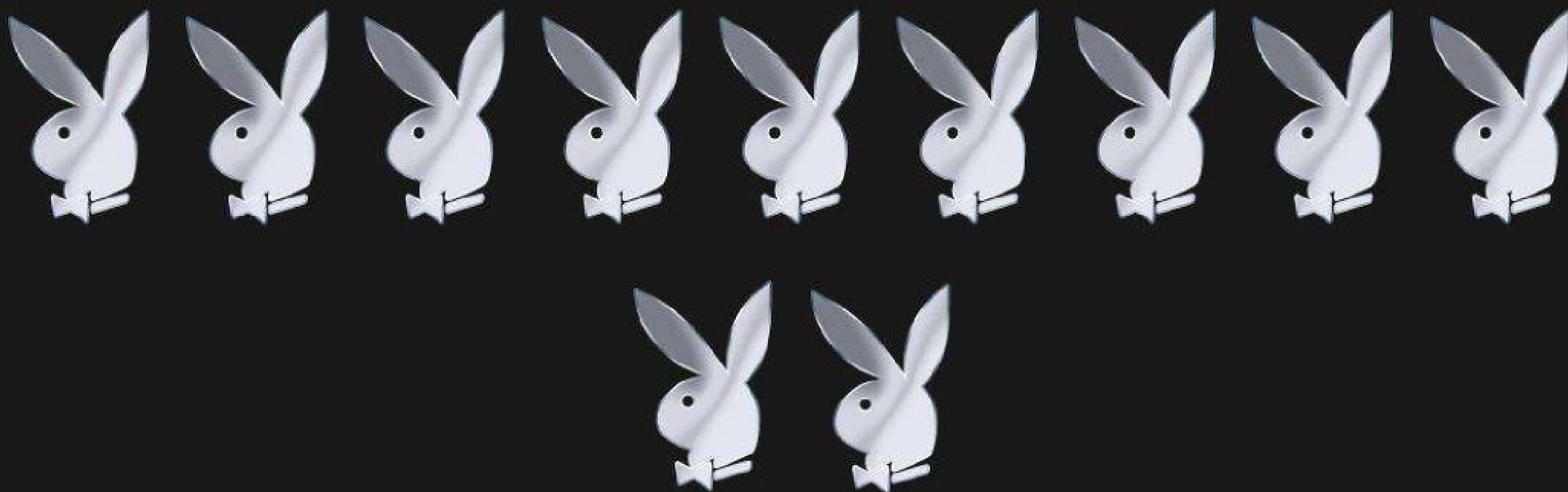
2009



2010



2011



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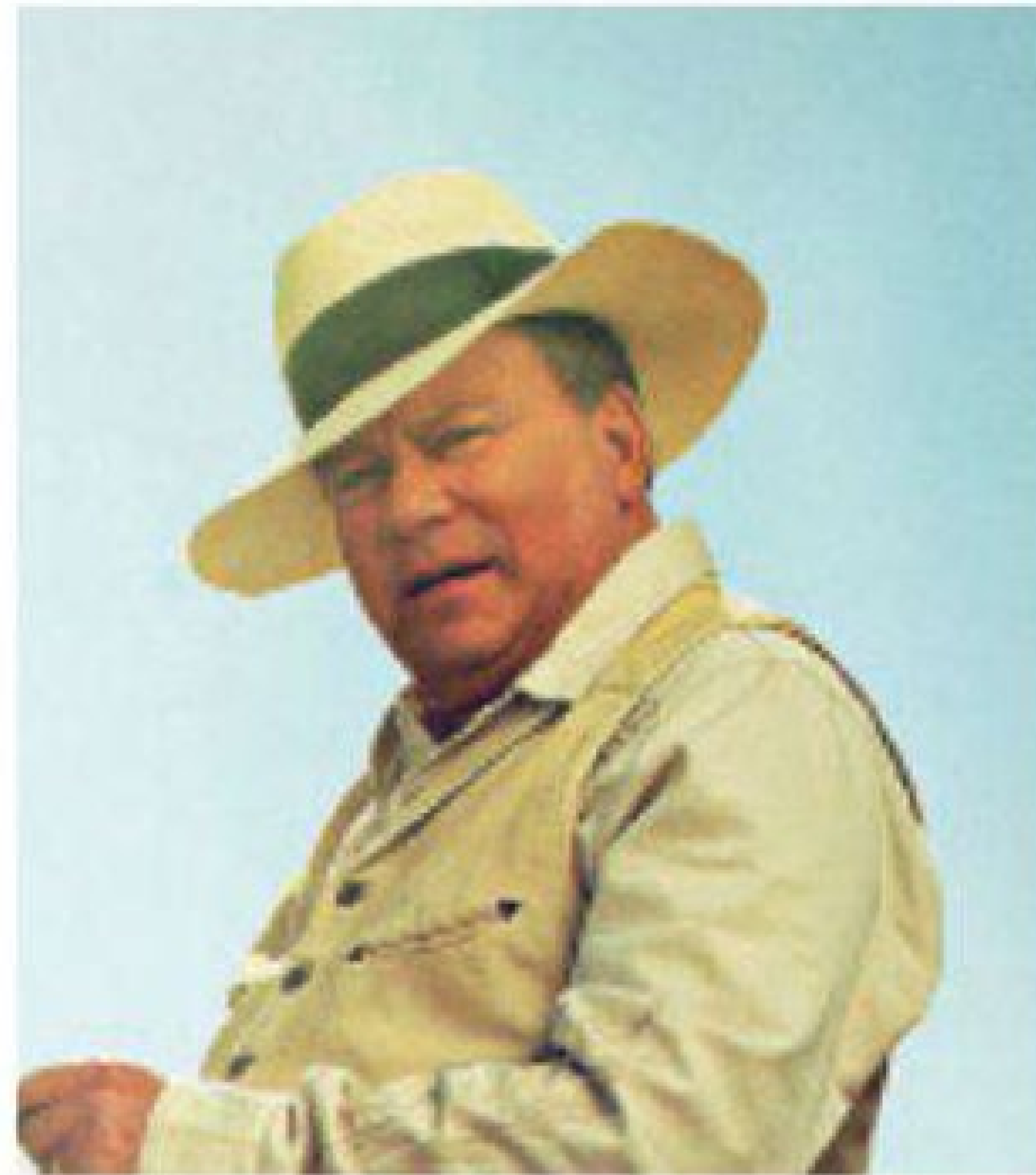
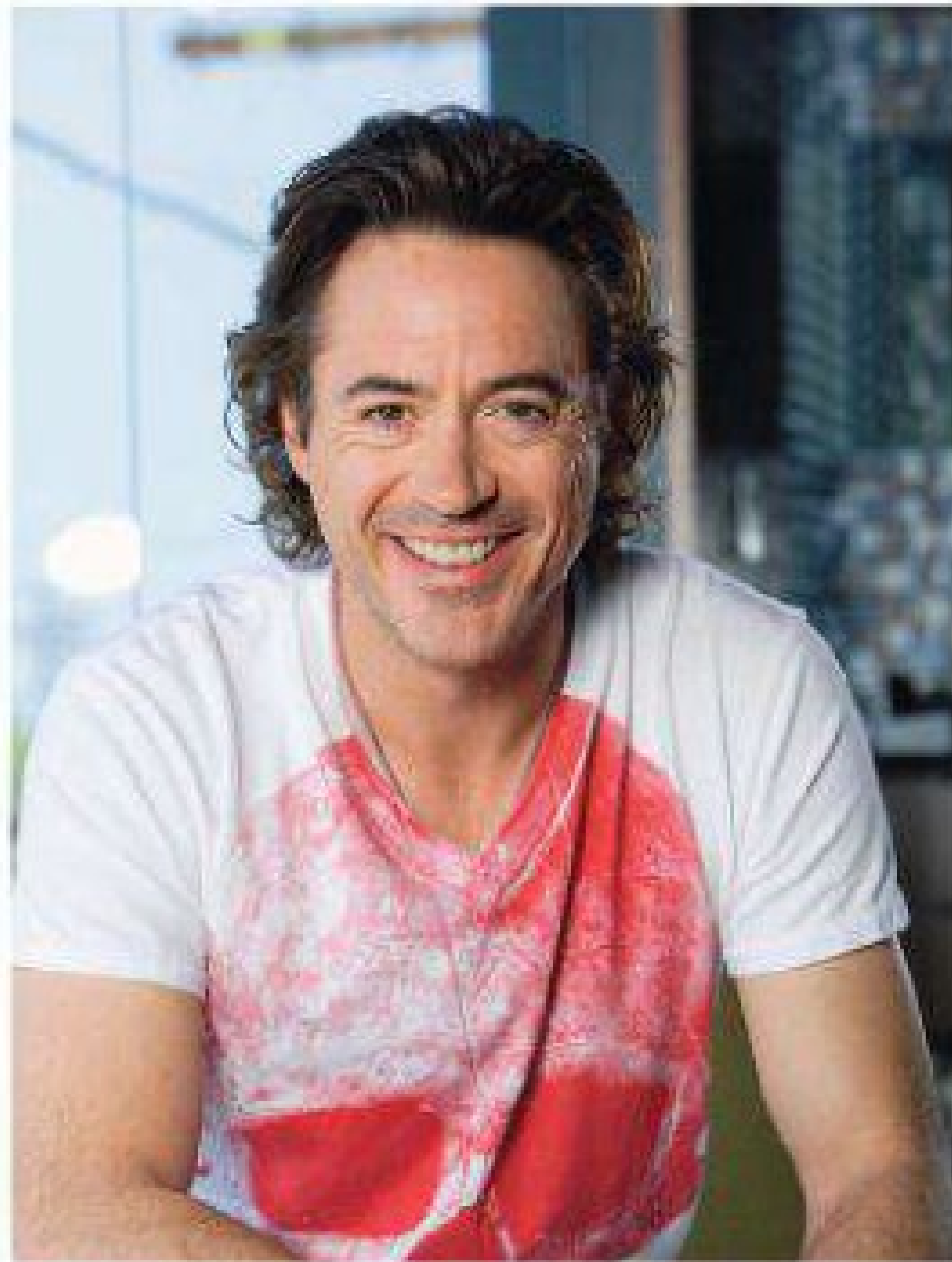
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Salon Professional System





## PLAYBOY PHILIPPINES



# ON THE COVER



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*"I think you're going to like my New Year's resolution...!"*



## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

# Happy New Year!

Greetings and Happy New Year to all of our faithful readers!

2011 is the year of the rabbit in Chinese astrology and what better way to celebrate it's coming than with us here at PLAYBOY. We wanted to welcome both 2011 and the coming of the year of the rabbit in a festive manner and we decided that there's no better way to celebrate than with an activity that's close to every PLAYBOY's heart: gambling!

Whether it's playing poker with close friends or a night out at the casino, few things can get a man more fired-up than putting a little something at stake. For those of our readers who don't know what we're talking about, we offer a different kind of introduction to the casino through Niki Yarte's *Casino Basics Out of the Box*. Staff writer Mikey "Billy B" Abola takes a closer look into one of our favorite games with *Points on Poker*. Regina Layug-Rosero heads over to Resorts World and finds that *What is Essential is Invisible to the Eye*. Finally, Ana Santos looks at a different kind of gamble that some of us do participate in with her article on HIV/AIDS. HIV: *Where it's Hiding and Why it's Growing* is an article done with the help of Newsbreak that looks into the much talked about but often ignored problem we're facing in our country.

As for the ladies in our magazine this month, we wanted to start the year right so we got the lovely Paloma Esmeria to be our first cover model for 2011 and I must say that we made the right choice on that one. I'm sure that those of you who went right into her pictorial after opening the magazine would say agree with me. For this month's playmate, we have Naomi Estefan, a shy young lady who transforms into a confident vixen in front of the camera.

2011 is going to be amazing. We suggest that you strap on your seatbelts because it's going to be an amazing ride.

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# DEAR PLAYBOY

Dear Playboy,  
Greetings! I've been following your magazine for more than a year now and I was very worried for a while that you guys might have stopped publishing. I waited in anticipation for the November issue and it never came out. When December came and there was still no magazine to be seen in the stands I got really worried that maybe there was no more PLAYBOY Philippines. I was very relieved however when the issue finally came out on New Year's weekend with not one, but two covers. You guys worried me there for a bit! Please don't do that again.

- Jed, via email

*Hello, Jed. Our sincerest apologies go out to you and the rest of our readers. A lot of things have been changing over here at PLAYBOY and that unfortunately has caused some temporary delays with our printing and shipping schedules. 2011 is going to be a huge year for PLAYBOY and rest assured that things will only get better from here. We here at the editorial team personally guarantee that this is going to be our best year yet. Stay tuned!*

Dear Playboy,  
Thank you for featuring Mercedes Cabral on your cover. I think that she's one of the most underrated actresses in the Philippines right now. She's been getting a lot of recognition around the world and I feel like nobody really gives her the credit she deserves locally. Kudos to you guys for featuring her.

- Marc, via email

*As you already know, Mercedes Cabral is one of our favorite people here at PLAYBOY. She's the only one who's been on our cover twice. We're very proud of what she has achieved so far and we're very happy that she chose to do one last shoot with us before she goes into more serious acting. We agree with everything that you said wholeheartedly and we're definitely going to keep on supporting her career as much as we can.*

Dear Playboy,  
There are no words for that shoot you did with Jaycee Parker and Zara Lopez. My jaw dropped while I was flipping through the pages. More of this please.

- Pio, via email

*We're glad that you enjoyed that spread because we definitely enjoyed shooting it. As for your request of having more than one lady for each shoot, we want to save these for special occasions. It won't be the last time that we'll do this though.*

Dear Playboy,  
Thanks for that very enlightening article you did about Freddie Roach. I never really heard about him before he started

training Pacquiao. There's a lot more to than man than I ever thought.

- Solomon, from Quezon City

Dear Playboy,  
I'm glad that I'm seeing more popular girls in your magazine. I think your shoots are nice but I don't know most of these girls.

- Jonas, via email

*Don't worry. We have a lot up our sleeve for 2011. It's the year of the rabbit after all. I'm sure you enjoyed this issue we just came up with.*







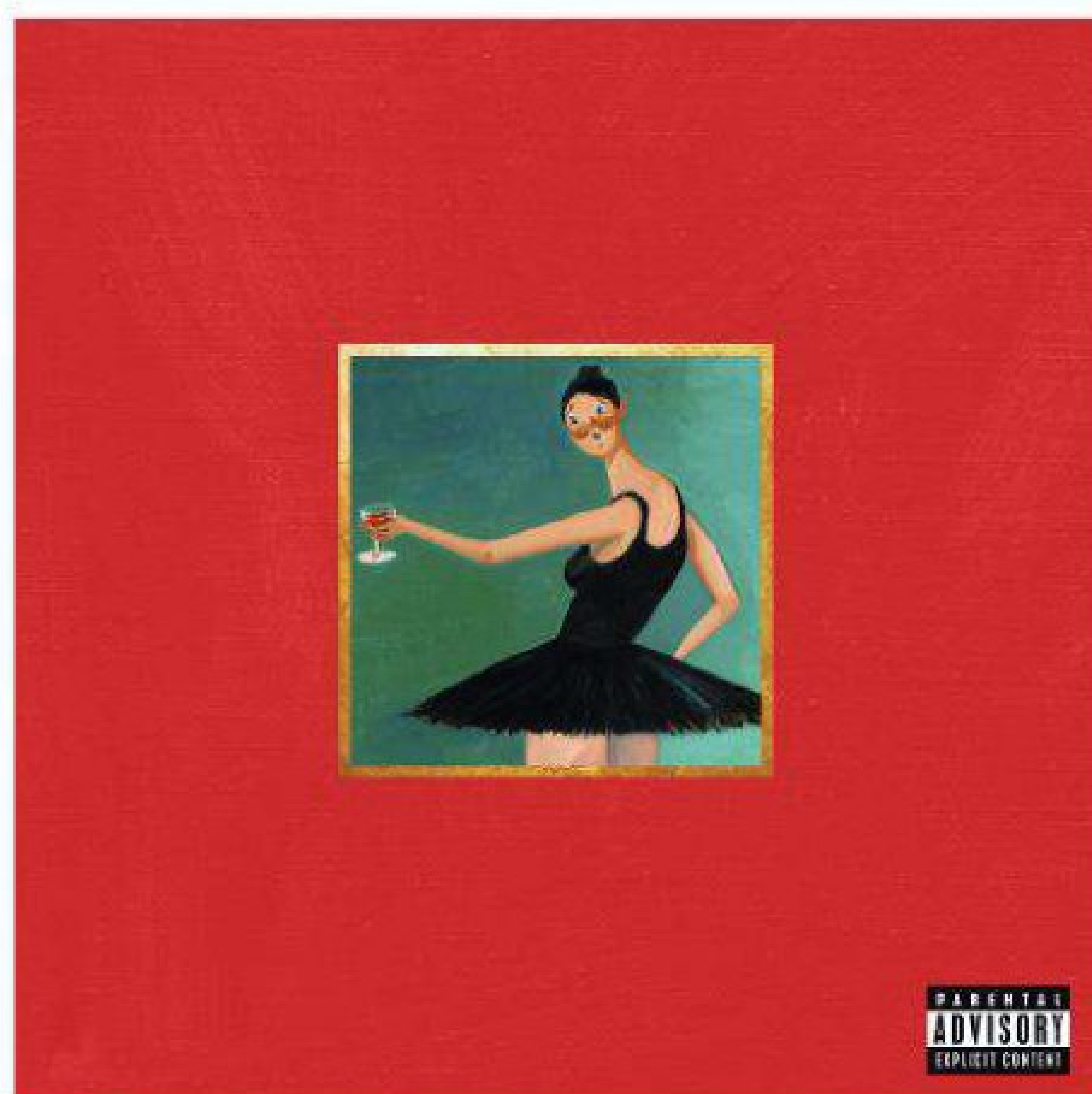
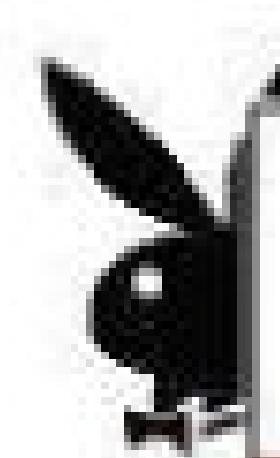


# PLAYLIST

MUSIC ■ MOVIES ■ TECH ■ LIFESTYLE

It's a wild world out there, and we'll never be able to see or hear it all. All we can do is aim for the best, and PLAYBOY is here to help you with that. Let the PLAYLIST show you what's worth coming across as the year turns!





## Kanye West

### *My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy*

Say what you will about Kanye West's narcissistic need to hog the spotlight and grab attention; the guy know how to make good songs. *My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy* is further proof of the man's genius. No other hip-hop album has even tried to be as ambitious as Kanye's latest opus. He takes the best elements of all of his past albums, from the sparse synth lines of *808 and Heartbreaks* to the now signature sped-up vocal samples he's used since the *The College Dropout*, and churns out something new entirely. It may be difficult to accept, but there's a lot more honesty and heart here than Kanye's megalomaniac persona would lead you to believe.

## Badburn

### *Crack The Weakened Surface*

*Crack The Weakened Surface* is an album that does not let up. Though it's been almost a decade since the band released their debut album, Badburn continues to stay on top of the country's metal/hardcore heap with one of the heaviest and most visceral releases of the past year. It's not as much an album as it is a clinic on how to do the whole metal/hardcore thing correctly.

New additions Gilchrist Tan and Joey Valverde are perfect complements to long-term members Marben Romero, Hendrick Gonzales and Dave Abaya, adding agility and deftness to the band's already bludgeoning sound.

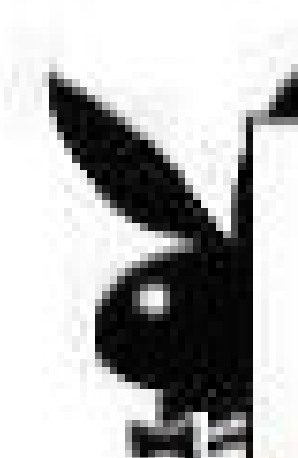


## Wilabaliw

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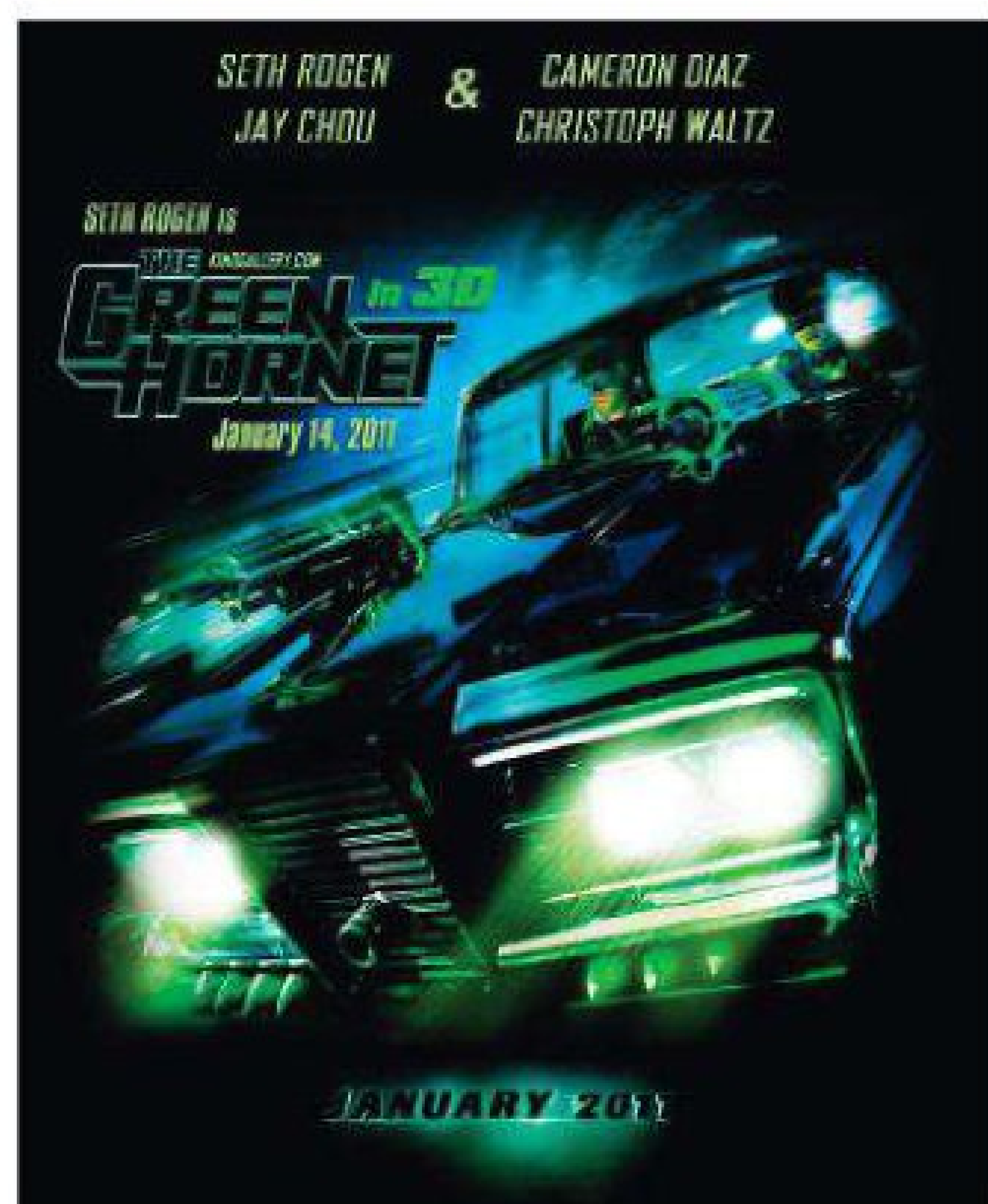
Wilabaliw is the brainchild of former Queso (or Cheese as they used to be called) frontman Ian Tayao, and also features co-Queso alumnus and legendary Skychurch member Robert de la Cruz. Guitarist Louis Isok from underground rock group Enemies of Saturn and Francis of Magat of jazz-fusion group Salindiwa round out the quartet. Comparisons to Queso are inevitable thanks mostly to Tayao's distinctive vocal approach but Wilabaliw manages to step out of that shadow by drawing from a different palette of musical influences ranging from blues-based hard rock to reggae.





# PLAYLIST

## MOVIES



### The Green Hornet

If you're into superheroes, tons of action, cool gadgets and fast cars, we're pretty sure *The Green Hornet* will not disappoint. Directed by the inventive Michel Gondry, the movie stars Seth Rogen as Britt Reid/The Green Hornet. The son of a wealthy newspaper publisher, Reid is a dashing, devilish playboy who inherits a gigantic media empire after the tragic death of his father. Upon meeting an extraordinarily talented employee named Kato (played by Jay Chou), the two realize that they have been putting their innate skills to waste. Reid suggests that they become crime fighters, with him taking on the identity of the Green Hornet. His acts of heroism catches the attention of a Russian mob lord; who then develops an unwavering desire to find and eliminate the Green Hornet, believing he is a direct threat to his plans of a dominant criminal underworld. The movie also stars Cameron Diaz, Tom Wilkinson and Christoph Waltz.

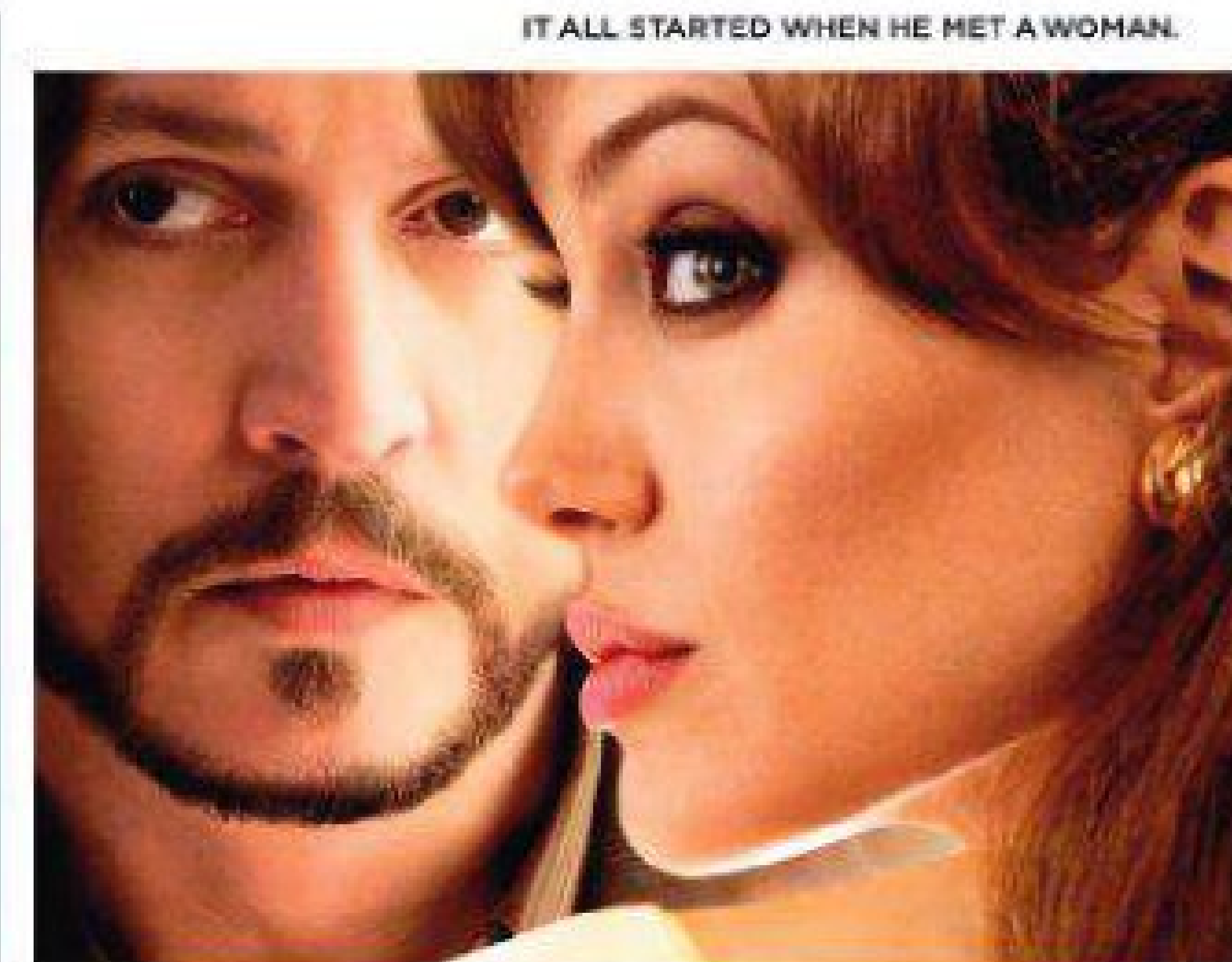
### Gulliver's Travels

Based on Jonathan Swift's 1726 novel of the same name, this modern-day take on the story revolves around mailroom-clerk-turned-travel-writer Lemuel Gulliver, played by Jack Black. Gulliver gets sent on an assignment to the Bermuda Triangle but gets lost at sea, suddenly finding himself on a mysterious island called Lilliput. Despite his overwhelming size, he is kept as a slave by the diminutive, yet hardworking natives. He realizes later on that what matters most is not your physical size, but how big you are on the inside. Available in both 3D and regular cinemas, *Gulliver's Travels* also stars Emily Blunt, Amanda Peet and Jason Segel. Thanks largely to Jack Black's comic brilliance, this movie is a must-see for those who are curious to find out how a classic piece of literature holds up with a modern twist.



### Meet the Parents: Little Fockers

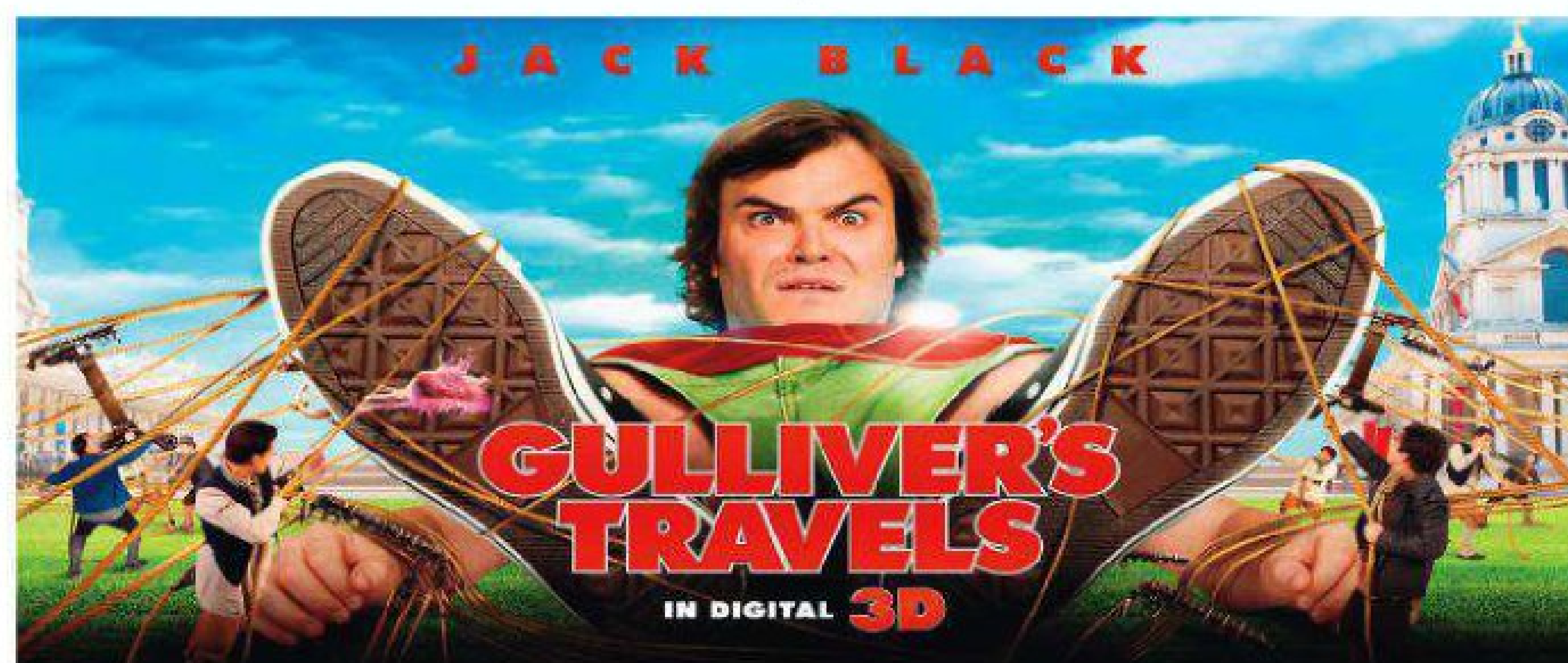
Ben Stiller reprises his role as Greg Focker in the final installment of the highly successful *Meet the Parents* series. With five-year-old twins, and a bad case of midlife crisis, the movie revolves around how Greg, along with his wife Pam (Teri Polo), deals with the dilemma of how to be a good dad, husband and provider all at the same time. All the while, Jack Byrnes (Robert de Niro), Greg's father-in-law, arouses tension once more by having new suspicions about his son-in-law. With all of Greg's household stresses, and the nagging presence of his father-in-law, a major confrontation is surely in the horizon. The movie also stars Dustin Hoffman, Barbara Streisand, Owen Wilson, and Jessica Alba. As with the hilarious first two installments of the *Meet the Parents* franchise, *Little Fockers* is a flick that promises you a good laugh.



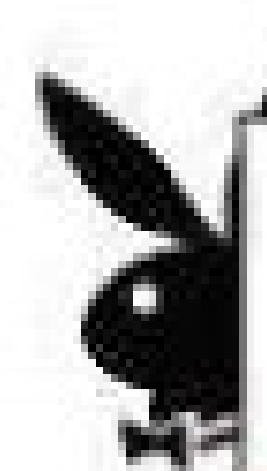
### THE TOURIST

### The Tourist

A remake of the 2005 French film Anthony Zimmer, *The Tourist* stars Johnny Depp who plays Frank, an American tourist longing for some R&R somewhere in Italy. There, he encounters and is enamored by the beautiful but mysterious Elise, played by Angelina Jolie. This flirtatious Italian tryst takes a turn for the worse as Elise's darker side beguiles this once promising vacation into a dangerous game of cat-and-mouse involving ex-relationships, the police and a dangerous alliance with the Mafia.







## Alienware Area 51 M15x series

At the very core (pun intended) of this mighty little laptop is the Intel core i-series processor (i3 to i7) with up to 8GB of DDR3 memory to back it up. More? You can load it with a 500GB SATA II hard drive, and it comes with 5.1-capable audio-out systems and a slot-load DVD-burning CD-drive. Most importantly, it can run a 1.5-GB Nvidia GeForce video card. Plus, with a 6-cell battery option, you can play for a few hours on battery power alone. Any laptop that can handle gaming on the level that this one does can probably handle most anything else you can throw at it, programming-wise.



## Perfect for the DIY Personal Paparazzi

If you're the type who brings digicams to parties, then you do know that sometimes your aim can be a little bit off. Rather than have the picture of a lifetime destroyed when you only have half your friend's face in the frame, Samsung has come up with the 12-megapixel TL210. It has a screen on the facing side, so you can aim your shot correctly while taking pictures of yourself and friends. For \$179, that's a good offer for recording your social nightlife properly.

## Sanyo Xacti DMX-CA100

The Sanyo Xacti CA100 is a dual-type camcorder (Video and Photo) that has 14-megapixel capability combined with full HD (1080p to H.264) video quality. What's more important is that this rugged 'corder can handle being dunked in up to 3 meters of water, and uses an SD card to store images and video.

If you're the type who either loves going to the beach, or needs a camera that can survive occasional splashes from beer or other kinds of liquids, then this Xacti camera is the one for you. However, you should take into account that it won't be as powerful as more dedicated video cams or digicams.



## Quick Quips

It was bound to happen: once you have an iPad, iPhone or iPod, you'd want to stick it on to your alarm clock / radio combo. That's what iHome's iA100 is about, turning the iPad into the brain of a compact bedside media center. With its Bluetooth capability, iPhones can be turned into speakerphones. Just remember though, it's a clock/radio combo so be prepared to dish out \$199.



## Yamaha YSP-5100

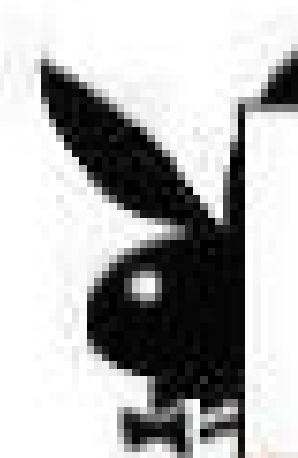
The 5100's near-total compatibility with Dolby audio format and system makes it perfect for the movie buff who needs the perfect sound. It also has HD audio decoding, compatibility with 1080p and works with the yAired technology for iPods and iPhones.

The soundbar has 40 small drivers to bounce sound around your room, and two larger tweeters in the bar. It comes with a wireless yAired subwoofer receiver you can put almost anywhere in the room.

If you prefer having a neat sound setup, or if you really don't have that much space for speaker units all, then the YSP-5100 is the high-end choice.







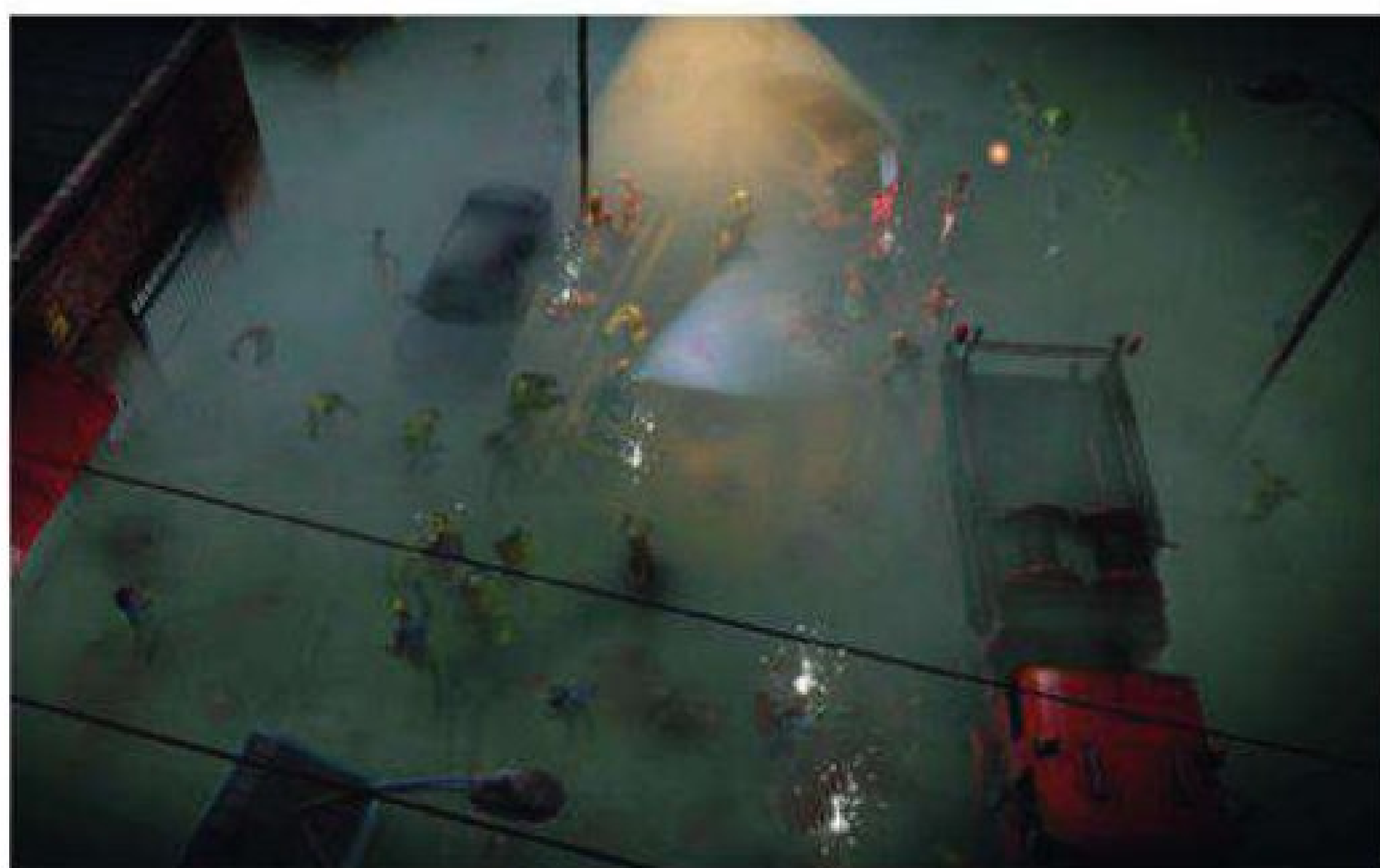
## NEED FOR SPEED: HOT PURSUIT

Xbox 360, PlayStation 3, PC, Wii

*Hot Pursuit* is adequately named because that's really what the bulk of the game celebrates: the thrill of the chase. Basically, Seacrest County has recently been populated with speed demons all over the world. With this growing problem in mind, the Seacrest County Police Department (SCPD) intelligently invests in super cars to take the racers down in full force. You have the option to play either a cop in the SCPD who primarily chases after the suspects and breaks up illegal street races or a criminal, evading the cops whilst trying to race to glory. Thankfully, they've

constructed *Hot Pursuit* for you jump back and forth from modes with the ability to play both.

Vehicle handling is spectacular and the game has little bonuses you'll be happy about. Speed isn't the only thing you're equipped with; all cars have spikes and EMPs. The police cars also have the advantage of calling in for helicopter support and roadblocks. Racers, on the other hand, have turbo boosts and jammers preventing the cops from using their gear. There's also a new Autolog feature - the social networking aspect of the game, which challenges your buddies to beat your personal records. Furthermore, the highlight of *Hot Pursuit* probably is the online team chases you get to play out in multiplayer. Packed with hours of entertainment you can enjoy alone and with your friends, *Need for Speed: Hot Pursuit* is certainly worth your time.



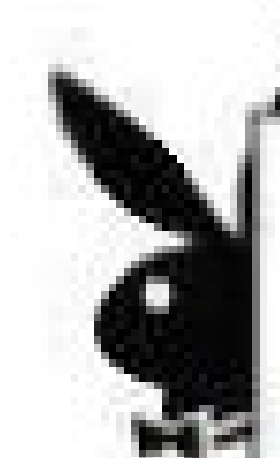
## DEAD NATION

PlayStation 3

Vampires took the world by storm a couple of years ago, new franchises popping out here and there in the form of various forms of literature, television shows and even films. Lately there's certainly been a shift from vampires to zombies. With the success of the *Left for Dead* games and this new show, *The Walking Dead*, it's a high time for zombie fans. Released exclusively on the PlayStation Network, *Dead Nation* is well worth the fifteen dollars it takes to download.

Like any other zombie game, *Dead Nation* has a solo campaign mode, co-op mode and online mode. You take on the role of either Jack McReady or Scarlett Black, who have been fighting off zombies for a year since the apocalypse hit. Luckily, they're somehow immune to the virus. Low on supplies, they decide to head out into the world to find others who happened to be just as lucky. This game is packed with all kinds of zombies imaginable and they increase in number and get tougher to kill as you progress. Definitely more than just your average zombie shooter, *Dead Nation* is packed with everything a zombie or horror fiend could ever dream about. With ridiculously good replay value, be prepared to take on the challenge of this zombie-infested world.



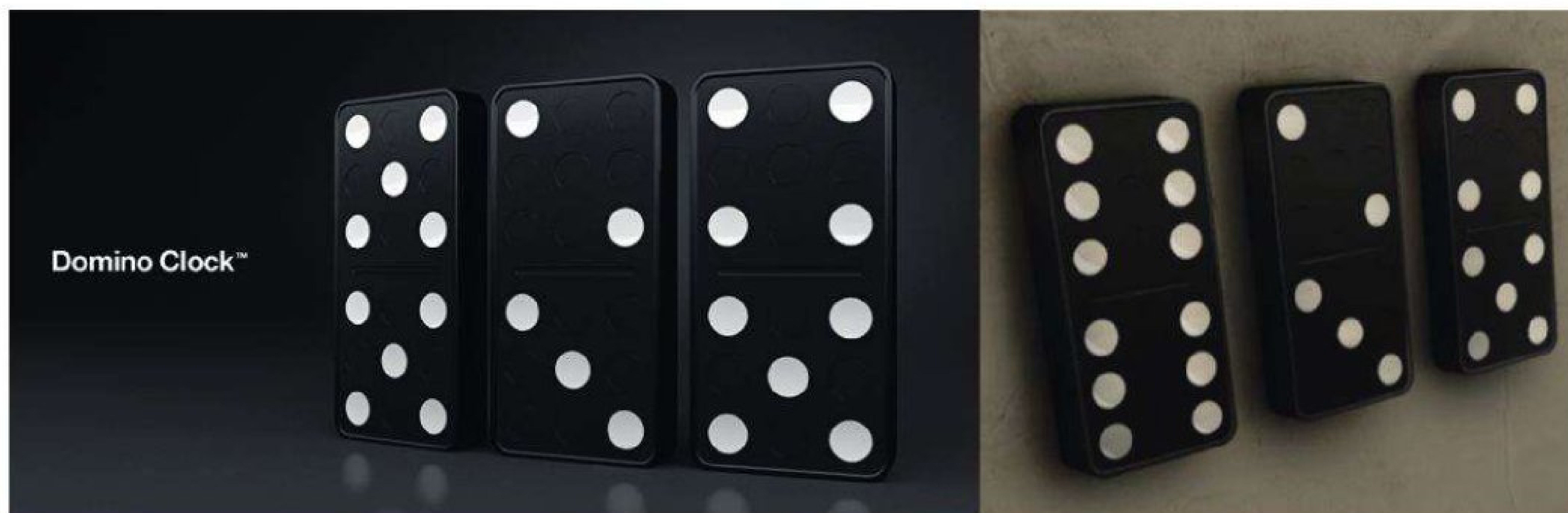


## FASHION TO FUNCTION

Who would have ever thought that such functionality could ever fit into your formal wardrobe? Introducing, Ravi Ratan's latest masterpiece: 4GB USB Drive Cufflinks, designed to make the extra demanding corporate life, breezy as playing dress-up. These pair of cufflinks are actually a pair of 2GB flash drives that you can actually have engraved with your initials. This feature functional creation is a must-have to keep all you presentations with you wherever you go. Plus, the variety of colors like gunmetal, gold and silver, should go along with any of your suits. Just be careful not to over-impress your boss. You might just get that promotion you've been eyeing on. That'll surely make your colleagues overly envious.

## MY GADGET'S REFUGE

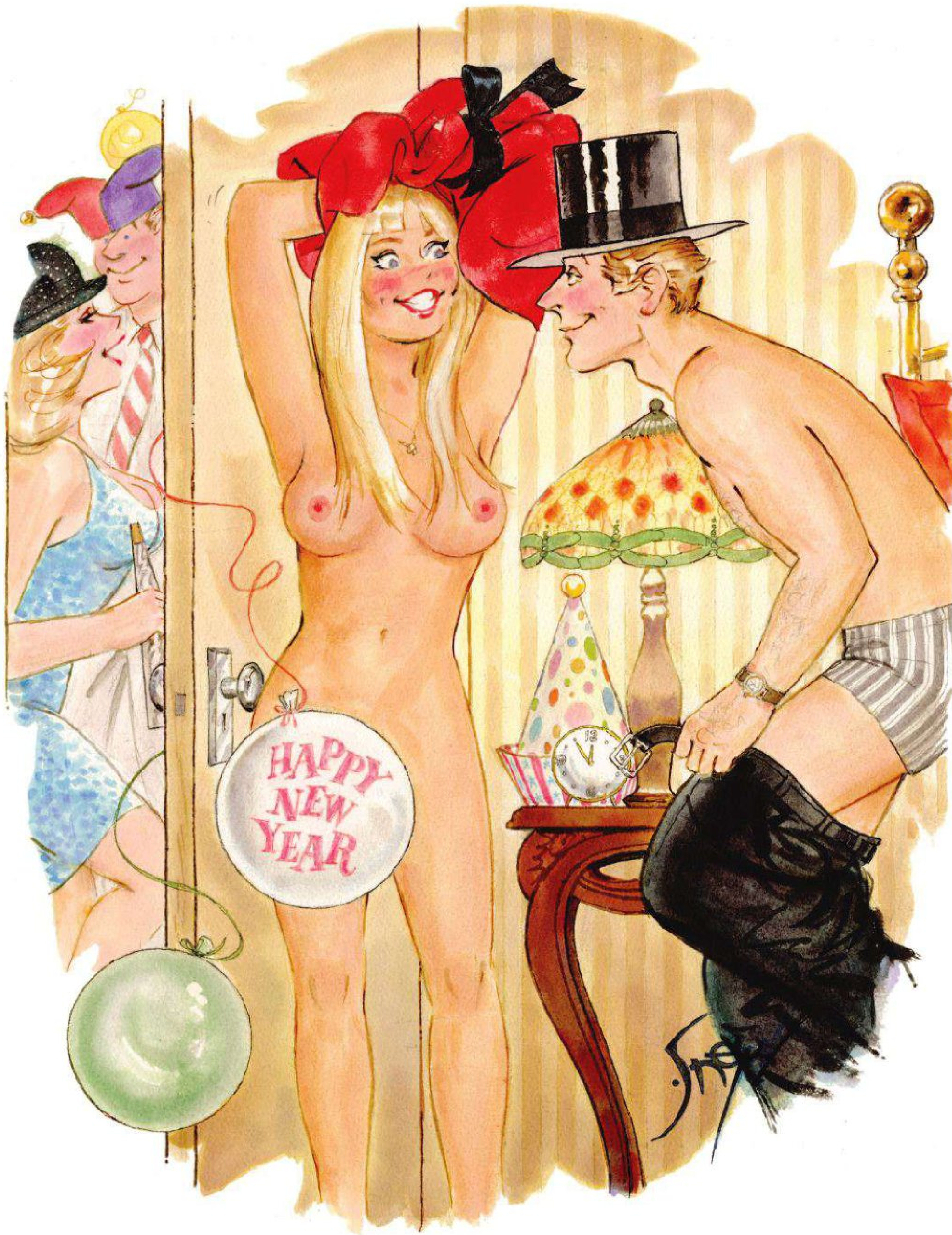
iPhones and iPads are somewhat pricey and well-designed gadgets that look their best when they still seem brand new. For most owners, it's hard to keep these gadgets looking that way. For many, finding the perfect container that does justice to their gadgets is no easy feat. Say no more; The newest addition to Moleskine's Folio Digital collection is the Real Moleskine Cover for the iPhone and iPad. The classic back cover features sleek rounded corners and a black elastic band closure. Inside is a lighter suede lining and a Volant notebook with plain pages. The Moleskine Cover is available for the iPad, iPhone 3G and iPhone 3GS.



## DOTS TELL THE TIME

We are at constant watch of the time every day. In keeping up with each schedule, we have all different kinds of clocks to get us through the busy hours. For the many years we've stared at the same boring, lifeless and routine concept of the clock. For the parts of us that screamed for change, someone at Carbon Design Group are giving us the Domino Clock. The larger-than-life dominoes are equipped with articulating dots that change back and forth between black and white to tell time. Its playful context will change the idea of time. Whether it's mounted on the plain white wall, or next to your office/house couch, counting down the minutes before that big meeting's never been this fun.





*"Hurry up, Bobby, my resolution kicks in in five minutes."*





# The Playboy Advisor

A friend introduced me to Poker last summer and I've been playing it since then. The addiction got to me fast. I've been trying to quit for months now but the things I've been doing to take my mind off poker just make me talk about it incessantly. Does this mean I should seek professional help or will this desire eventually wear out?

—Tom, via email

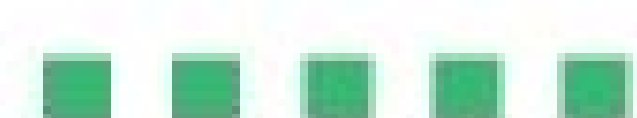
*You know very well the answer to that. A winning streak is a fleeting case. You'll never know when to stop until all you get from your wallet is a pile of debt receipts. Simplest way to get out of a bad hobby is to find a diversion. Finding better use for those gambit hands is easy. It's the will that's hard to control. This isn't just a one-time thing. The things that prompted you to gamble in the past may and will resurface again. It's best that you don't avoid the feeling of wanting to gamble. Instead, deal with the issues that would normally trigger you to start gambling.*



I've been wondering if something is wrong with my penis. When it's soft, it's very noticeable that it curves to the left, and more so if it's erect. I don't feel any pain or anything; it just curves to the left. Is this normal or should I go see a doctor about this?

—Neil, via email

*A minor bend in the erect penis is perfectly normal, as few penises are straight as an arrow. But there are cases in which the penis can bend severely left, right, up or down, or even back on itself, making intercourse impossible. This kind of condition is what doctors call Peyronie's disease. This disease is usually, upon erection, associated with pain. If you're sure you haven't had any sort of pain for the duration you've noticed that your thing is somewhat not normal compared to others, then you're fine. Otherwise, you may want to visit the doctor and consult him about your problem.*



I find it incredibly sexy when a girl's vagina is shaved, so I asked my girlfriend

if she would be okay with that. She obliged, and after doing it with her, I felt a burning, kind of irritating feeling in my genital area. Turns out, I had a friction burn, which I think was caused by the sharp stubble of genital hair. What can I do to make the burns go away?

—Christian, via email

*There are few topical creams that you can buy over the counter. Although this is a very minor case and a few first aid solutions are just within reach, you still have to check with a dermatologist. The skin around the genital area is very sensitive and is very different from all the other skin in your body. Experimenting with it might lead to serious problems.*

*You obviously learned your lesson the hard way. Next time, instead of shaving, advise her to try waxing. The skin's much smoother after all the hair's been removed. You won't have to worry about having those friction burns again.*

Something on your mind? The PLAYBOY Advisor answers your questions about life, love, the pursuit of happiness and most anything in between. Tell us who you are and where you're from, and what's been nagging at you. Email us at [theadvisor@pbphil.com](mailto:theadvisor@pbphil.com), and we'll publish the questions we find most interesting. PLAYBOY reserves the right to edit material for brevity and clarity. The most interesting question of the month gets the sender a free beer (or equivalent non-alcoholic beverage, for you non-drinkers) with the editorial team!







## THE PLAYBOY FORUM

# THE PHILIPPINE LOTTERY – A GOVERNMENT CASHING IN ON PEOPLE'S DREAMS

BY KAREN P. SIMBULAN

**A LOTTERY IS THE PERFECT TAX...LAID ONLY UPON THE WILLING. - GEORGE WASHINGTON**  
**LOTTERY TICKETS ARE A SURTAX ON DESPERATION. - DOUG COUPLAND**  
**LOTTERIES, A TAX UPON IMBECILES. - CAMILLO DI CAVOUR**

### The Great Equalizer – the Lotto Line

On November 29, 2010, one man won the biggest jackpot in the history of the Philippine lottery – an unprecedented P741,176,323.20 from the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office's (PCSO's) Grand Lotto 6/55. Upon winning, not only did this unidentified man finally put an end to the 6/55 Grand Lotto's 6-month no-winner streak, he also put an end to the dream of millions of Filipinos who, secretly or not so secretly, hoped to be the Philippines' next almost-billionaire.

At present, the Grand Lotto 6/55 presents the highest jackpot prize among PCSO's lotteries, offering a minimum jackpot prize of P30,000,000.00. The only problem is, this game also offers bettors with the unlikely odds of winning the top prize. Since a bettor has to choose 6 different numbers from the numbers 1 to 55, based on the rules of probability, a bettor has a 1 in 28,989,675 chance of picking the winning combination.

Proving just how slim the odds are, since the PCSO launched the Grand Lotto 6/55 in April last year, there have only been two recorded winners, despite the fact that the Grand Lotto 6/55 has thrice weekly draws. Granted, these winners were able to take home hefty prizes, the first, allegedly a female government worker from Cavite, winning more than P134,629,873.20 on May 12, 2010, and the second, reported to be a

balikbayan from New York on vacation with his family, taking home P741 Million. Not bad for an initial investment of P20.

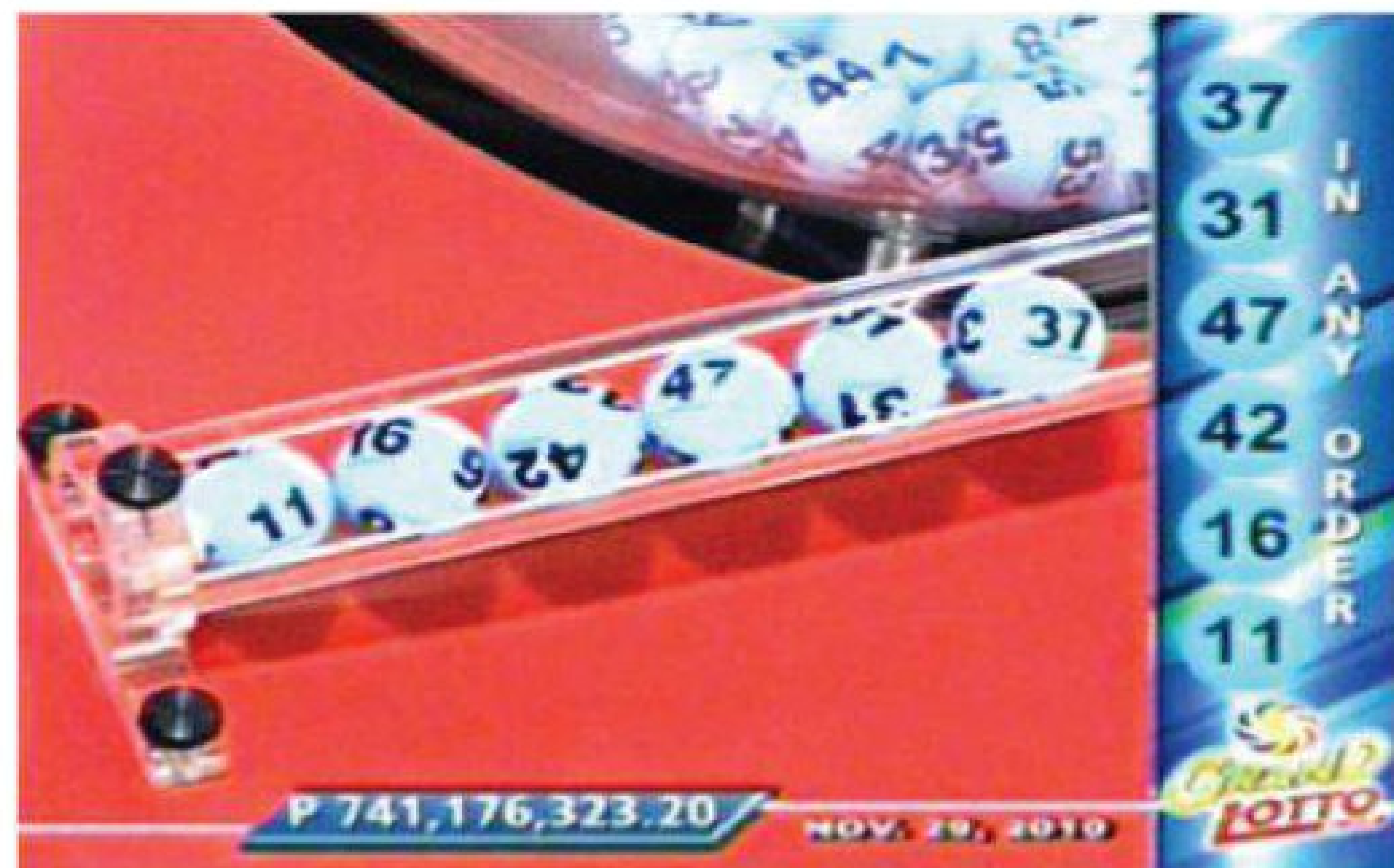
Perhaps this is why, despite the highly improbable chances, a myriad of people, from the very rich and socially secure, to the destitute and indigent, continue to try their luck, patiently waiting in lines that stretch for blocks, hoping for a chance to join the elite club of the Philippines' multimillionaires.

Just last November, the dream of winning big spread like wildfire all across the country. As the prize money for the Grand Lotto 6/55 grew larger, so did the crowds lining up to buy lottery tickets. Even people from the Class A and B crowd, generally not the state lottery's target market, jumped on the bandwagon and started placing their bets.

According to the PCSO, once the lotto prize hit the P500,000,000 mark, more than eight million bettors placed their bets, a 50% increase in the number of bettors. As a local news website reported, these bettors include high ranking government officials like Presidential Spokesman

Edwin Lacierda, as well as Senators Juan Miguel Zubiri, and Francis Escudero, who admitted to placing their own bets for the P741 million draw.

The sudden surge in participants caught even the lotto operators by surprise. As a result, there were reports of angry customers who had to wait in line for hours to place







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their bets as frazzled lotto operators had to manually take down bets on their system when they ran out of lottery cards. Despite all the aggravation, the bettors stuck it out, resulting in the PCSO earning a staggering total of P4.1 billion gross revenues from May to November from the Grand Lotto 6/55 bets alone.

### History of Lottery in the Philippines

The use of the lottery as a source of government revenues is not new to the Philippines. The PCSO website ([www.pcsso.gov.ph/history.html](http://www.pcsso.gov.ph/history.html)) reports that as early as 1833, the Spanish government, with the support of the Empresa de Reales Loteria Espanolas de Filipinas, a private entity, conducted loterias to earn additional government income.

The website [www.dapitan.com](http://www.dapitan.com) relates an interesting historical anecdote which illustrates just how closely the lottery is tied to our culture. It appears that in 1892, our national hero, Jose Rizal, while in exile in Dapitan, formed a partnership with several friends and purchased a lottery ticket that won him and his friends P20,000 from the government-owned Manila lottery. From this amount, Rizal received a share of P6,200, which he proceeded to divide into three, giving P2,000 to his father, P200 to his friend Basa in Hong Hong, and spending the rest of the money to buy agricultural lands along the coast of Talisay.

The *loterias* stopped operations during the Philippine Revolutionary War. Right before the Philippines became a Commonwealth state, in

1932, the government conducted the first sweepstakes draw to raise funds for the Philippine Amateur Athletic



Federation in support of sports projects for the Filipino youth. Realizing the great moneymaking potential that lay in sweepstakes draws, the government, through the National Charity Sweepstakes Office, conducted more draws, this time for the Philippine Anti-Tuberculosis Society.

By March 1935, President Manuel L. Quezon approved Act No. 4130, creating the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes with the aim of raising funds for the promotion of public health and general welfare. Among its beneficiaries then were the Philippine Amateur Athletic Federation, the Philippine Tuberculosis Society, the National Federation of Women's Clubs, the Association de Damas de Filipinas, the Gota de Leche, the Associate of Manila and the Provinces, the Philippine Council of Boy Scouts of America, the Asilo Para Invalidos de los Veteranos de la Revolucion, the Child Welfare Center, as well as other organizations engaged in charitable and health work.

While Act No. 4130 underwent a number of amendments, PCSO's primary objective remained

fundamentally unchanged - to provide funds for health programs, medical assistance and services and charities of national character. Put in another light, services that should be provided by the government are being (voluntarily) funded by the millions of Filipinos who purchase government issued lottery and sweepstakes tickets.

On September 24, 1979, Batas Pambansa Blg. 42

granted the PCSO the authority "... to hold and conduct lotteries and similar activities" to generate funds. This inevitably led to the PCSO's launch of the first On-Line lottery in the Philippines, in the form of the Lotto 6/42, in 1995. In this computerized game of chance, the bettor picks 6 different numbers from 1 to 42. He wins the jackpot prize if his chosen numbers are drawn during the televised lotto draw.

Riding on the success of these games, the PCSO introduced several other incarnations of the Lotto 6/42. There's the three-digit (3D), the four-digit (4D), the six-digit (6D), the Mega Lotto 6/45 and the Super Lotto 6/49 draw.

### Selective Illegality – The End Justifies the Means?

Interestingly enough, prior to Act No. 4130, as amended by BP Blg. 42, the use, distribution, sale and importation of lottery tickets was illegal under





## THE PLAYBOY FORUM

# THE PHILIPPINE LOTTERY – A GOVERNMENT CASHING IN ON PEOPLE'S DREAMS

the Revised Penal Code. As a matter of fact, the use, distribution, and sale of lottery tickets is considered a form of gambling, and is illegal in the Philippines when not sanctioned by the government.

Gambling, as defined by Philippine jurisprudence, refers to "the paying of any game for money or any representative of value or valuable consideration or thing, the result of which game depends wholly or chiefly upon chance or hazard, or the use of any mechanical inventions or contrivance to determine by chance the loser or winner of money or of any representative of value or of any valuable consideration or thing."

Early Philippine jurisprudence reflects the country's moralistic stand when it came to gambling. In the case of *US v. Salaveria*, (G.R. No. L-13678, November 12, 1918), the Supreme Court stated thus:

*More important still, the courts cannot but realize that gambling, in its larger sense as well as in its restricted sense, is an act beyond the pale of good morals, which, for the welfare of the Filipino people, should be exterminated. The suppression of the evil does not interfere with any of the inherent rights of citizenship. The pernicious practice is rightfully regarded as the offspring of idleness and the prolific parent of vice and immorality, demoralizing in its association and tendencies, detrimental to the best interests of society, and encouraging wastefulness, thriftlessness, and a belief that a livelihood may be earned by other means than honest industry. To be condemned in itself, it has the further effect of causing poverty, dishonesty, fraud, and deceit. Many a man has*

*neglected his business and mortgaged his integrity to follow the fickle Goddess of the cards. Many a woman has wasted her hours and squandered her substance at the gambling board while home and children were forgotten. It is highly proper that this pastime should be subject to the control of restraints imposed by the ordinances of local governments peculiarly afflicted by the evil.*

**"With these odds, there is only one sure winner every time – the house, in this case, the Philippine government. Our consolation – at least every time we take our chances, we can pat ourselves on the back and feel a little altruistic"**

*How times have changed since then. How times have remained the same.*

Despite the increasing popularity of the PCSO-run lotteries, the Legislature enacted Republic Act No. 9287 on April 2, 2004. RA 9287 was enacted with the avowed State policy of condemning illegal gambling activities as "this has become an influential factor in an individual's disregard for the value of dignified work, perseverance and thrift since instant monetary gains from it are being equated to success, thereby becoming a widespread social menace and a source of corruption." In view

thereof, the law increased the penalties for the illegal numbers games such as *jueteng* (a form of local lottery where bettors choose from a combination of 37 or 38 numbers), *masiao* (a numbers game where the winning combination is derived from the results of the last game of *Jai Alai*), and last two (a numbers game where the winning combination is derived from the last 2 numbers of the first prize of the winning Sweepstakes ticket).

According to RA 9287, any person caught betting on these illegal numbers games can now be imprisoned from 30 to 90 days. The penalty is higher if you act as : (a) a staff of an illegal games operation or allow your vehicle or house to be used in the operation of the game ( 6 years and 1 day to 8 years); (b) a collector or agent (8 years and 1 day to 10 years); (c) a coordinator, controller, or supervisor (10 years and 1 day to 12 years); (d) a maintainer, manager, or operator (12 years and 1 day to 14 years); (e) a financier or capitalist (14 years and 1 day to 16 years); or (f) a protector or coddler (16 years and 1 day to 20 years).

This State policy becomes highly ironic when viewed in light of the fact that the government has legalized many forms of gambling, from the sweepstakes, lottery, and even cockfighting. But what differentiates the legalized forms of gambling from all the other games of chance classified as illegal numbers games? By definition, the State-run lottery falls and the different types of illegal numbers games all within the ambit of gambling – upon the payment of consideration, one has the chance of winning a prize based solely on chance. And yet, while the government actually encourages





## THE PLAYBOY FORUM

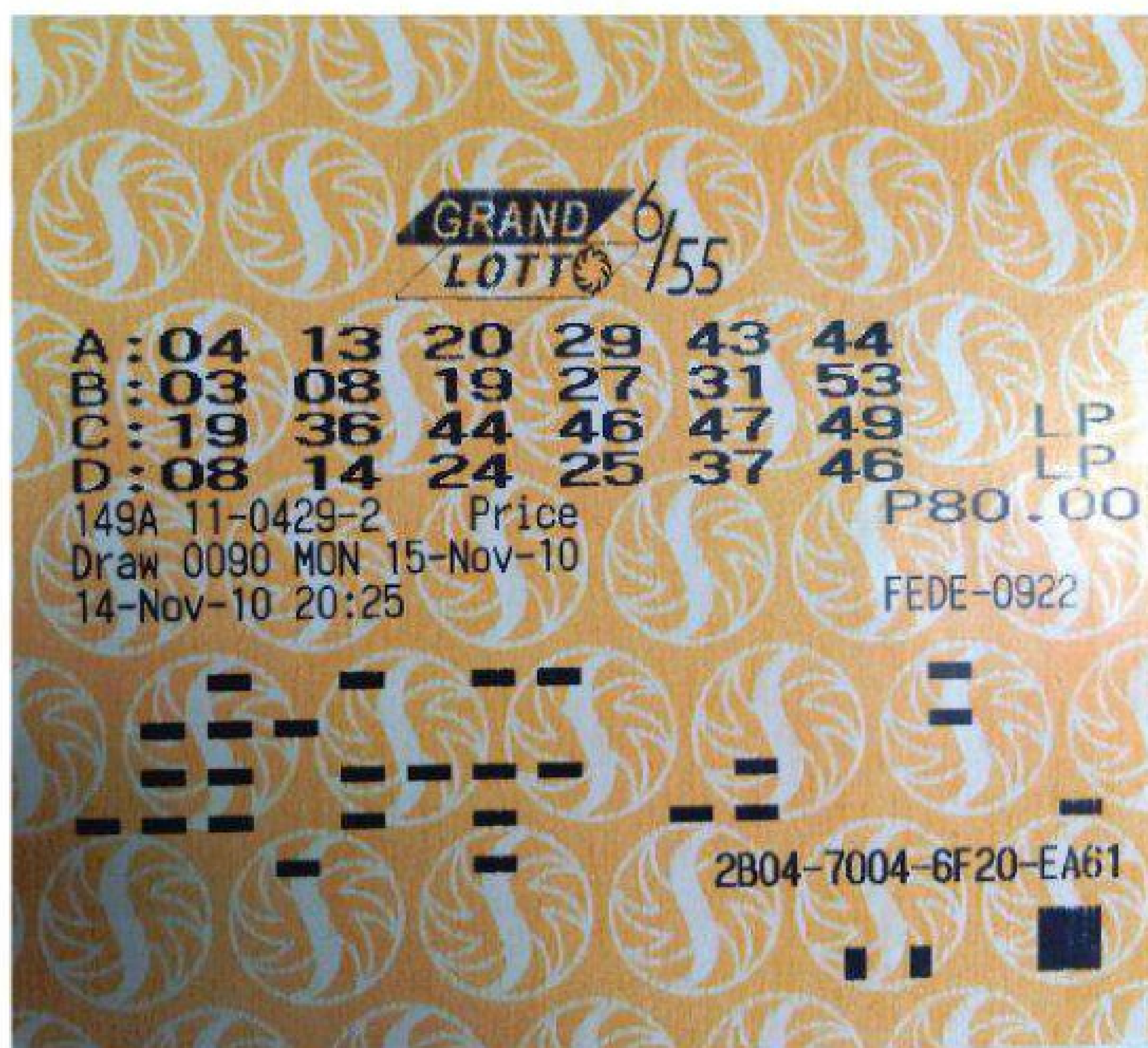
# THE PHILIPPINE LOTTERY – A GOVERNMENT CASHING IN ON PEOPLE'S DREAMS

public participation in the PCSO lottery and sweepstakes, the government threatens the public with imprisonment if they join the other. The hypocrisy is made even clearer when we consider the following: even if you only play the State-run lottery, the pernicious effects of gambling that RA 9287 seeks to curb and address are still present. The only discernible difference is who benefits the most from the profits. While State-run lotteries and sweepstakes (together with the other forms of gambling regulated and conducted by PCSO's even larger-earning younger brother, PAGCOR), provide funds for the State, the illegal numbers games do not. It seems the bottom line of RA 9287 is to protect the State's cash cow – it doesn't want any competition.

### Purchasing the Right to Dream

Given the chances of 1 in 28,989,675, I can safely bet that neither you (yes, you, dear reader) nor I will win the lottery in our lifetimes. We all have a better chance of dying from being struck by lightning (1 in 2,650,000), being killed from an

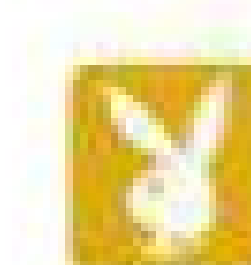
asteroid collision with the earth (1 in 500,000), or being injured by a toilet this year (1 in 10,000), than becoming a multimillionaire by winning the Grand Lotto 6/55.



With these odds, there is only one sure winner every time – the house, in this case, the Philippine government. Our consolation – at least every time we take our chances, we can pat ourselves on the back and feel a little altruistic. Going by the Republic Act No. 1169, 30% of the net proceeds of the sweepstakes and lotto ticket sales go to the Charity Fund. Among

the beneficiaries are the Red Cross, Blood Bank, National Mental Hospital, Boys' Town in Marikina, Missionaries of Charity in Cebu, Golden Acres, Tala Leprosarium, Commission on Family Life in Laoag City, Bacolod Boys' Home in Negros Occidental, Dominican Missionaries' Stela Maris Nursery, Leprosarium in Zamboanga City, Daughter of Mary, Mother of the Church in Naga City, nutrition centers, rural health clinics, government hospitals and many others which total more than 8,000 beneficiaries.

In the end, most people don't just purchase a lottery ticket with their P20 bets. They also purchase the right to dream big. What would you do with P741 million pesos? For a minimum of P20, anyone is given the right to answer this question. And, even if the moment is fleeting, hope springs in the heart of every bettor. Until the next draw, that is.



## WHY THE FORUM MATTERS

First appearing in the US edition's July 1963 issue, PLAYBOY Forum is a section that has always been about openness and interactivity, and fostering an impassioned back-and-forth discussion with our readers. From the start it has served as a colloquium between editors and readers on matters of freedom of speech and sexual rights (for more on this, see the Forum in our December 2008 issue). Today, the Forum serves as the policy nexus for the magazine, hitting upon a wide range of topics and considerations, and as a place to highlight the intersection of the PLAYBOY Philosophy (also explored in our December issue) with the nuts and bolts of the world around us. We welcome all who wish to have their opinions on the Forum topic of the month published to send their thoughts to [playboy@pbphil.com](mailto:playboy@pbphil.com) with the subject "FORUM."



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# THE GEARBOX

## Furiously Fast: Feeling The Need For Speed - Gearbox's Guide To Street Racing

By: Marvin Covar

If you've seen the millions of movies dedicated to street racing, then this scenario should be familiar to you. It is nighttime, and two cars side by side are revving their engines. A scantily clad woman stands between two automobiles and excitedly waves a handkerchief or bandana. The two vehicles speed off into the night while spectators cheer. This situation is not native only to the movies, somewhere two cars are pitted against each other in the ultimate act of machismo. Who has the better car? Who has the better driving skills? This is street racing and it exists in the known and not so known streets of the metropolitan area.

Street racing is an unsanctioned and illegal form of motor racing that takes place on public roads. It is either a spontaneous contest between two motorists or a very coordinated and well thought of event that has been planned. Street racing is said to have originated around the 1930s in America due to alcohol prohibition in some parts of the United States.

Street racing existed in the Philippines as early as the 1970s and was later brought back and popularized in the late 1990s. Races were mostly held in the main highways of Metro Manila in areas such as Sucat, Greenhills, C5 road and Marcos Highway as well as Sta. Rosa Laguna which is located south of Manila. Cars that are commonly used are the Toyota Corolla and the Nissan Sentra while those who have higher budgets have high performance cars like the Mitsubishi Lancer Evolution and the Subaru Impreza. Hondas are a favorite among Filipino street racers most notably the Honda Accord and the Civic SiR, which are sometimes transplanted with bigger Type R engines.

In spite of street racing's popularity, the Philippines has had its share of wipeouts and crashes. The accidents from illegal street racing in these areas prompted authorities to heighten police presence, impose stricter fines and impound vehicles.

However, there are also legal racing events. Enthusiasts in the Philippines took these illegal races to the strip and formed organizations such as PDRF (Philippine Drag Racing Federation), which was formed to promote the sport. Organized street

racing events bring large amounts of revenue to the locations in which they are held and safety precautions are in place to protect racers, passengers and onlookers. Although such an avenue exists, illegal street racing provides more of an allure and fantasy to many young racers because of the danger of the race, and the danger of being caught in the illegal act.

There are different types of illegal street races. An impromptu race is a contest that occurs spontaneously, usually when drivers pull up beside each other, perhaps at a stoplight, or stop sign and proceed to race each other until the other is no longer in view.

One type of race called a hat race may include several racers who are competing for money, or "pinks," which are registration or ownership papers on vehicles. These races may not be confined to certain roads, and are often for long distances, like from one city to another. An organized race is planned in advance and the road is blocked off for the race. These types of races usually occur in remote locations, either late at night or early in the morning, and include several spectators.

Cannonball, more commonly known as sprints, are illegal point-to-point road rallies that involve several racers. These were made popular at the end of the 19th century and went away when the chaotic 1903 Paris-Madrid race was canceled at Bordeaux for safety reasons after several deaths involving drivers and pedestrians. They resurfaced in the United States in the mid 1910s when Erwin George Baker drove cross-country on record breaking runs that stood unbroken for years. The term "Cannonball" was penned for him in honor of his runs. These days, drivers race from one part of a town or country to the other side; whoever makes the fastest overall time is the winner. A perfect example of an illegal road race was the 1970s original Cannonball Baker Sea-To-Shining-Sea Memorial Trophy Dash, aka "The Cannonball Run," founded by long-time automotive journalist

**"The two vehicles speed off into the night while spectators cheer. This situation is not native only to the movies, somewhere two cars are pitted against each other in the ultimate act of machismo."**





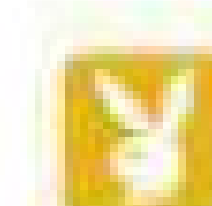
Brock Yates. The exploits spawned numerous films, the best known being *The Cannonball Run*, which was loved by car enthusiasts at the time and of today. Several years after the notorious "Cannonball," Yates created the family-friendly and somewhat legal version "One Lap of America" where contests occur in race circuits and still run to this day.

Next up is a type of automobile racing called drag racing. The driver that covers the most distance between the two cars or reaches the end first is the winner. It was made popular again in car culture by movies like *The Fast and the Furious*. It involves two or more competitors that drive in a straight line for a specified distance, usually consisting of a quarter mile. The primary skills used in drag racing are the ability to launch with ideal wheelspin and shifting as fast as possible.

The sport of drifting and touge racing primarily from Japan has led to its acceptance in other parts of the world. Touge is Japanese for "mountain pass." These races are held on mountain roads and passes and races are done one car at a time, or in a chase format through mountain passes. The definition varies per locale and racing organization and examples are Del Dios Highway in Escondido, California, and Mount Haruna, on the island of Honshu, in Japan. It should be noted however that street racing competition can lead to more people racing on a given road than would ordinarily be permitted. This leads to the reputation of danger. These races are typically run in a best out of three format. One racer starts the first race with another directly

between the cars at the finish line. For instance, if the first contestant has pulled away from the second at the finish line, he is determined the winner. If the other guy has managed to stay on the first guy's tail, he is determined the winner. For the second race, the second guy starts off in front and the winner is determined using the same method. This is referred as a "Cat and Mouse Race." It sounds more complicated than it looks, and should be seen to get a better perspective.

Street racing can be a very exhilarating and exciting experience. However, laws vary from country to country, but getting caught participating in an illegal street race, whether actually racing or just watching the event, can have serious consequences. Your driver's license may be revoked, and your insurance rate may either be increased or your insurance canceled altogether. As previously mentioned though, there have been organizations out there that have been popping up, allowing you to get your kicks and grinding your gears legally. The entrance fees and paperwork may be a bit of a hassle, but we believe that once you get there and become one with the road, the experience is worth it.





# Newfound Glory

The gawking public would often immediately pronounce an unfair judgment. The accusations somehow cut through to the skin but to shake it all off is the most familiar human defense. Hovering an inch above of what is normal always has its toll, but who denies change denies survival.

Every New Year, the clamor of fireworks displays compels us to deal with a long list of changing resolutions - amendments of what works and what doesn't. The underlying truth about it is still somehow a vague vision for some, but for the world in which speed is vital, we all need to keep up.

The vivacious, goal-oriented vixen Paloma Esmeria, more commonly known by her first name, walks us through her unabated passion for modeling, singing, acting and her newfound journey as a Christian. Her invariable faith for the arts has kept her in the industry and her instinctive skill for seducing has given her both her share of critics and fans.

We've seen her strut her stuff for many a magazine. She has made her way up and shifted gears to more daring fields. Enthusiastic about the variety of her works, she explains, "*Sa iba-iba talaga* before *ako nag-pose* for men's magazine. *Nag-start ako sa mga damit*, after that, Maxim. Then I also did a cover for a gadget magazine and a sneaker magazine, then 411 - also a sneaker's magazine *pero* sa Japan, then Uno. *Ang saya saya*. The Lord has been so kind to me."

Just a year ago, she started producing her own album, "It started *nung kumakanta kanta ako* when I was endorsing Colt 45. That was last year, from January to May. *Doon nahasa tapos* I said to myself, why don't I produce my own album. *Ayun na*. I am now on my second song *pa lang* because it's really hard when you're self-producing. But I take so much pride in the lyrics *kasi* I was the one who wrote them. It's a collaboration with other artists like *mga* rappers. *Nag-rap din ako* in this album so that's one thing you should look out for.

Paloma started as a teenybopper. Her parents appreciated and understood her enthusiasm for her work. They saw what ignited her passion and with that, grew a huge respect for nudity. Although there were those who disapproved of her liberated perceptions, this didn't hinder her from reaching her dreams.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOSEF DUMBRQUE  
MAKE-UP BY CATZ DEL ROSARIO  
of MY MAKE-UP ROOM  
STYLING BY MARK SI LANDINGA  
ADDITIONAL STYLING BY JADE SIERRA  
of COSTURA GRAFICA

*When things get you down, make the best of your own life rather than worrying about what everyone else thinks.-Dita Von Teese*

She recalls being down on the dumps and realizing that the countless misfortunes and the various critics have always just been bumps on the road. No one has ever figured out a way to get by it unbruised. Just like her icon Dita Von Teese, she knows herself better than anybody else and would, in a heartbeat, leave behind the battalion of people who pull her down.

With great credence, she explains, "*Ako*, I admit *na bago ako tumanda*, I want to be in the pages or cover of every magazine *na puwede*. Grab the opportunity *kung nararamdaman mong para sa'yo*. All the photographers I've worked with know *na hindi ako maarte*. If you ask me to do nude, I'll give you nude. *Ang mga tao naman kasi*, they see you as a slut because you see yourself as a slut. If you give respect to what you do and you make them see it that way, then they too will admire and see *kung anong nakikita mo*. It's all in you and how you carry yourself. That's how I look at things even when *tinitignan ko yung ibang models*. They're an inspiration. I KEEP UP WITH CHANGE. The changes I make for myself are from the beliefs I was taught."

With her recent stretch to singing, she has removed a few dispensable habits and has turned into a much more disciplined version of herself. Her new journey with the Christian world has given her exponential possibilities of exploring the art of her professions alongside the validation of who she is as a woman - Accomplished, self-fulfilled and confident.





























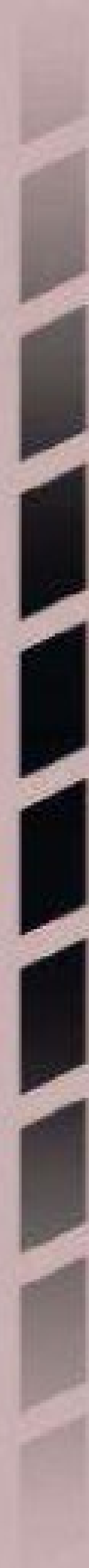






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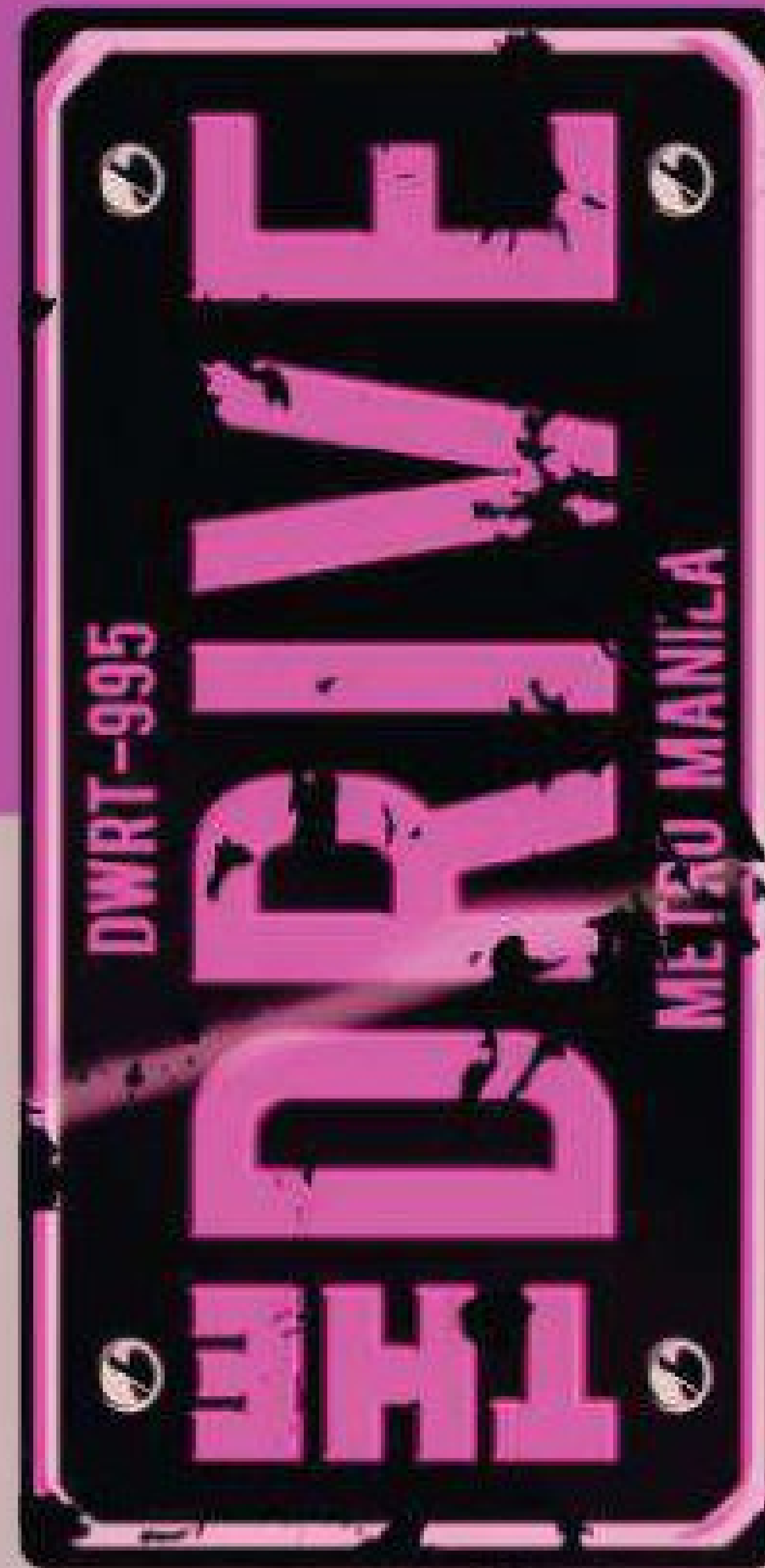
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# What is Essential is Invisible to the Eye

**A**nd other clichés about digging a little deeper before passing judgment. Resorts World Manila would like you to bear those in mind when you consider visiting their property.

By Regina Layug Rosero











**“What’s the point of a spiffy casino without some sense of exclusivity? The first two floors are open to all gamblers, but access to the third floor is restricted. Start making friends with the dealers and maybe they’ll let you in through the secret door, open only to the true high roller.”**

Say ‘Resorts World’ and people immediately conjure up visions of a glittering Vegas-style casino and hotel, filled with the cheers of winning gamblers and the kaching-kaching of slot machines and cascading tokens, maybe free cocktails and complimentary hotel rooms. Yes, we just saw 21 again recently, and we have visions of Kate Bosworth leading the way to a room in the Hard Rock Hotel.

But Resorts World Manila (RWM) doesn’t want you to think about the glitzy gambler’s life. Despite the bright, flashing lights, the sprawling grounds, and the tagline, “the place to play”, the management wants you to know that Resorts World Manila is more than just a giant casino.

You have to admit, it is a really nice casino. It was the first part of the RWM facility to open, in August of 2009. Located in the center of Maxims Hotel, the casino occupies three whole floors, which contain 1,000 slot machines and 300 table-games -Because you have to gamble on so many levels.

Perhaps the best thing about the casino is Bar 360, featuring live performances on the ground floor and the second floor. At anytime between 12 noon and 2:00 AM, the stage will have singers, contortionists, acrobats, and anything else you can imagine. A nice break whenever you feel like Lady Luck isn’t quite smiling on you anymore. And of course, the bartender can whip up your favorite drinks anytime.

What’s the point of a spiffy casino without some sense of exclusivity? The first two floors are open to all gamblers, but access to the third floor is restricted. Start making friends with the dealers and maybe they’ll let you in through the secret door, open only to the true high roller. Or you can wait for The Genting Club (yes, like Malaysia’s Genting Highlands).

Touted as ‘the country’s most exclusive lifestyle club,’ Genting will open sometime in 2011, and access will be limited to platinum RWM members only. Much like the Playboy Club, the Genting Club will feature a sports bar,



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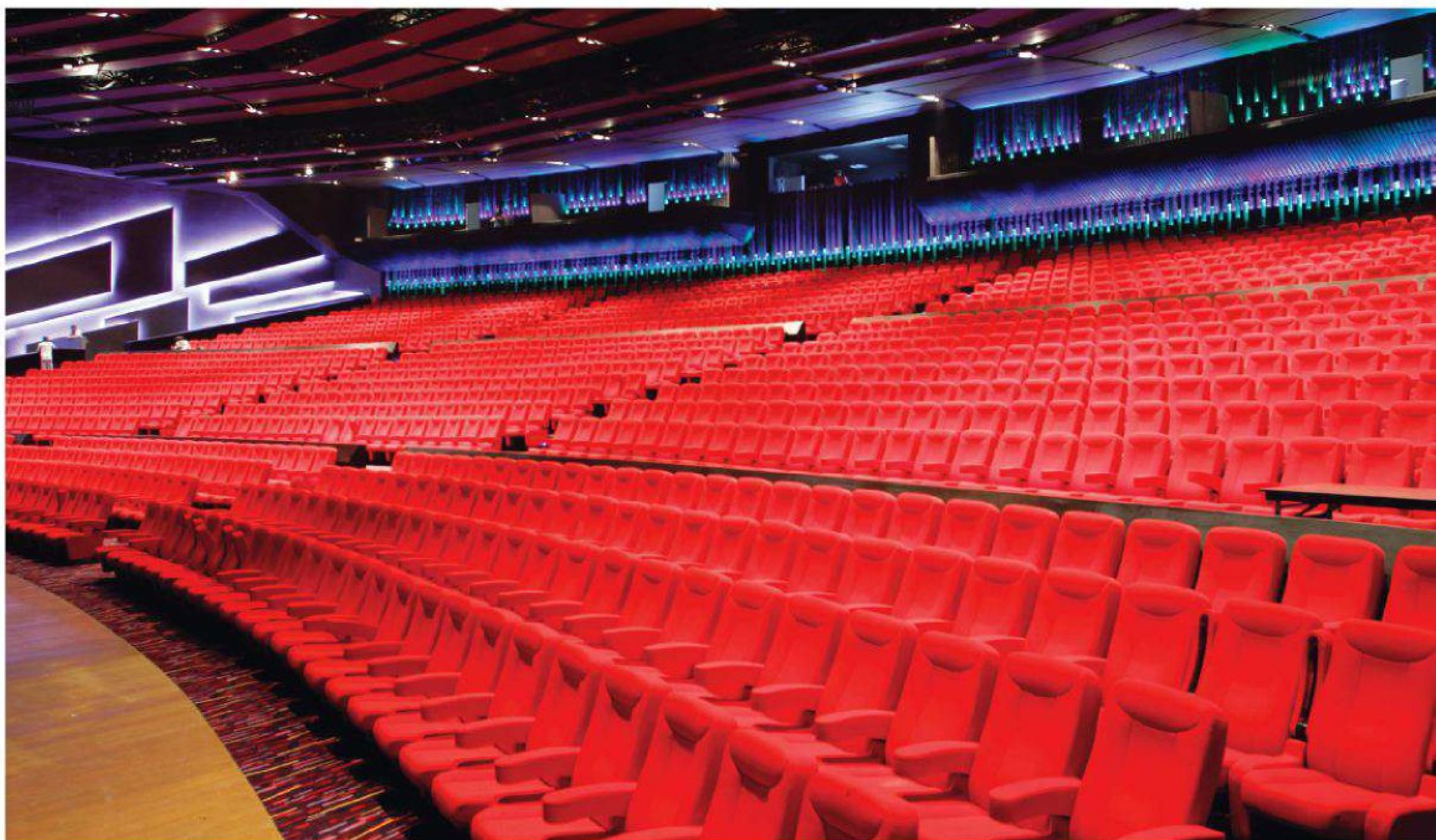
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a private casino with table games (who needs slots when you have money to burn?), and cabaret shows. Earth, Wind & Fire have performed to very intimate audiences in the yet unfinished club. In the works are a ballroom and a cigar bar. Enjoy a few puffs of your favorite Cuban while debating the merits of that something-or-other bill with the dignified gentleman you met over a glass of Scotch. Maybe later you can give him a run for his money.

When you’re ready to take a nap or hold a private party, members can check in to Maxims Tower. Each of the 172 rooms is a suite, and quite a sweet suite indeed. Larger suites have a separate living and dining area, a king-sized bed and a luxurious boudoir with his and hers marble sinks. Smaller suites have two double beds, and that smaller boudoir is still high up on the fab scale. If that’s not enough, you could spring for one of the three villas, or even the presidential suite. The fifth floor has a members-only access to the Newport Performing Arts Theater, so you can easily take a peek at a show, and then hurry back to your room.







Each room in Maxims Tower is equipped with butler service, and those staying in the villas can count on a staff of 4 for all their needs. Craving a Wagyu burger at 4 in the morning? We're pretty sure they can whip something up.

If you want a change of scene, Marriott Hotel is right next door. You probably didn't even know there was a Marriott at Newport City. Here's a good choice. If you're tired of Maxims' suites, you can try one of the Marriott's 19 suites, or any of the 323 guest rooms. There's a spa for all your relaxation needs, and a ballroom in case you feel like having a few hundred of your closest friends over for a few drinks. And when you feel like roughing it, the Remington Hotel will be offering affordable amenities later in 2011. But we're guessing the budget hotel will still be pretty classy.

Once you cash in your chips, well, you have got to have a place to spend it all. Try the four floors of Newport Mall, filled with 100 retail and dining outlets. While the requisite Starbucks and Coffee Bean are to be expected, exclusive shops like U-Boat and Old Penang can only be found here. Open till late daily, it's a good place to shop and dine after a hard day playing roulette. The mall also has the Newport Plaza, which features an indoor, park-like area, much like the avenues of Macau's, The Venetian.

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The Newport cinemas are to be found on the fourth floor, and all four theaters are equipped with stadium seating. It seems no cinema anywhere is complete without one 3D theater and one high-end theater. Various cineastes report to PLAYBOY that the enclosed pods and fully reclining seats of the Ultra 1 Theater are definitely worth the Php 500 ticket. Press a button and you get unlimited popcorn and drinks.

The fine dining options at RWM are pretty impressive too. We enjoyed a few drinks at the Café Au Lait in the Maxims Tower lobby, and Marriott’s Cru Steakhouse offers up cuts of meat to whet any appetite, done just the way you like it. Our discerning palates could find nothing to complain about at Cru. Plush seats swallow you up and make you wish the meal would last forever. Oysters are garnished with salsa and soup is served in tiny teacups. The wine selection is quite impressive too. The servers know exactly what they’re feeding you; from the ingredients of your chosen sauce to the way your sides are prepared. Guests seeking to satisfy very specific cravings will not be disappointed.

If Chinese food is what you want, as many of the RWM clientele do, you’ll want to visit Passion. This fine dining restaurant serves Cantonese cuisine, and is ruled from the kitchens by a Hong Kong chef. Classics like Peking duck can be found here, as well as other Chinese favorites, like videoke in the function rooms. Corporate events are frequently held in the function rooms; a while back, David Foster popped in for a press conference.

RWM Gold and Platinum members have exclusive access to Maxims Dining, but all guests are welcome to try Ginzadon, which serves Japanese and Korean cuisine. Mercado offers a buffet of diverse Filipino dishes, while Noodle Works whips up an Asian feast.

Not to be outdone, Marriott has coffee shop Java +, with gourmet coffee and pastries. The classic Marriott Café offers all-day dining, and sports bar Velocity Entertainment will put the game on while you cheer for your team over a glass of cold beer.

We love the nightlife as much as the next jetsetter, so we were happy to find that Embassy had metamorphosed into Republiq, open Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 10PM. If you’re just looking to enjoy their food and drinks, the Republiq Café is open during the day—and yes, they have videoke rooms too.

Entertainment for the whole family comes in the form of the Newport Performing Arts Theater (NPAT). Currently playing is KAOS, RWM’s first exclusive production. Much like the themed multimedia productions that dazzle audiences in Las Vegas, KAOS is a multi-faceted show, with music by the Manila Symphony Orchestra. The love story is brought to life by an ensemble cast, which includes singer and theater actor Gian Magdangal, half-Pinay Canadian Idol standout Martha Joy, and veteran performer Joel Trinidad. But the real star of the show is Kaos, a live white lion, who is part of Spanish trainer Enrique Polo’s entourage of animal performers. Acrobats from China and Belarus perform daring feats of agility and flexibility. Motorcyclists from Spain take your breath away in death-defying stunts, and hip-hop dance champions Philippine All Stars energize the show. The theater seats 1,500 and features the largest LED wall in the country. We’re pretty sure RWM has other fascinating productions lined up after KAOS finishes its run.

Amidst all the foreign cuisine and international entertainment, RWM launched a showcase Philippine culture in the Grand Fiesta Manila 2010.

Intended to be an annual event, the Fiesta exhibited Philippine art, cuisine, music, festivals and world-class talent. Four whole days were packed with activities, including performances by Sandwich and Urbandub, international singer Arnel Pineda, Earth Wind & Fire experience featuring The Al McKay All Stars, and crooner Jed Madela.

Part of the Fiesta was Party at the Grand Parade. Street dancers were clad in vibrant costumes inspired by the country’s most popular festivals. Central to the parade was a festive float crowned by the beauty of the RWM queens: Wendy Tabusalla, Miss Resorts World Manila; first runner-up Maxine Mamba; and second runner-up Anthea Murfet. The UP Streetdance Club staged a dance concert, and master illusionist Eric Mana performed feats of wonder and magic.

The Fiesta also featured an art festival to promote the works of budding Filipino artists, and a mini-sampler of RWM’s regular acts, from acrobats to singing sensations, was held at the Newport Park.

If all of that doesn’t say ‘family entertainment’, then we really don’t know what sort of family you’ve got. But for those of you willing to give this place a spin, rest assured we at PLAYBOY have tried it out for you, and RWM gets high marks.



*Behind RWM are veterans from the fields of leisure and entertainment. RWM is the flagship integrated project of Travellers International Hotel Group, Inc. (TIHGI). The innovative group is a joint venture between two of Asia’s most dynamic companies, Alliance Global Group, Inc. (AGI), and Genting Hong Kong (GHK).*

*Many thanks to the kind and helpful people at Resorts World Manila: Mr. Tony Toh, Mr. Jeff Evora, Mr. Archie Nicasio and Ms. Joy Andrade.*



# Points on Poker

By Mikey "BillyB" Abola





## Some History

And so this begins just like how many news reports end today—it all had something to do with what happened in China. Official Liao dynasty chronicles point out how in 969 AD, Emperor Mu Tsung played a game of cards with his wife on New Year's Eve. Egg-heads point this out not as the origin of playing cards—that distinction apparently goes to the divination practices of medieval Korea—but as the first recorded instance of a game very similar to poker.

From its Oriental beginnings, the game was said to have travelled west landing in Egypt, where proof of such flattened-out fun dates back to the 12th century. From there, the story gets hazy as similar games started to show up in various parts of the world across various parallel timelines. In the 16th century,

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**“An experienced poker player or two would base decisions on probabilities, calculations and other thought-heavy endeavors. Of course, this isn't to say all poker players are statisticians and mathematical geniuses. Such cerebral driven players are probably outnumbered by the ones who play from the gut, and really leave it all to lady luck.”**

people of the royal courts of Persia played with cards made out of thin slices of ivory and even tortoise shells. These decks were called Ganjifa, meaning “treasure” or “playing “ cards and were eventually mass-produced on cheaper materials like wood and palm leaves.

Later on, a new game that involved turn-based betting, and an assumed hierarchy of card combinations emerged. It was called As Nas and is often considered to be a direct predecessor to today's family of poker games. However, sometime in the 17th century, more current features of the game were observed in France and Germany. Everyday men and women played Poque or Pochen—which means “to bluff”—where it appropriately involved a lot of guile and pretension. Records, however, show that a lot of other games at the time involved some form of bluffing in order to gain a positive outcome. The English Bragg, the Spanish, Primero and the French Brehan all had encouraged some form of blindsiding.

Slightly blindsided as historians are with the exact origins of poker, what remains clear is that French immigrants to Canada (who ended up in New Orleans via the Mississippi River) were the ones responsible for bringing the game to the United States. Apparently, Poque was considered a French national pastime but interestingly enough, its descendant poker would become a very American form of amusement. After all, any retelling of the wild, wild west would one way or another involve a saloon brawl erupting after a hand is contested quite contemptuously.

## A Thinking Man's Game

Far back in time goes the history of the card game that has taken much of our sensibilities by storm with gaming rooms both real and virtual riddling our cities (and the cities of our minds), and full tournaments airing on cable TV as wholesale entertainment. Various bars and clubs across the metro would boast of their exclusive poker rooms, perpetuating the discourse that the game has “VIP” written all over it.

Particularly, Texas hold'em has emerged as the most popular variant owing perhaps to its “thinking-(wo) man's” nature. Where slot machines, roulettes and craps are pretty much pure games of chance, fans of hold'em would point out how the game involves more decision-making and planning.

Individual players are dealt two cards, but hands are completed by community cards tossed out for everybody playing the game. Like other poker variants,

hold'em has a “pot” to which competitors wager their money. However, this iteration has more rounds of betting, enabling players to think ahead and project outcomes. An experienced poker player or two would base decisions on probabilities, calculations and other thought-heavy endeavors. Of course, this isn't to say all poker players are statisticians and mathematical geniuses. Such cerebral driven players are probably outnumbered by the ones who play from the gut, and really leave it all to lady luck.

Likewise, bluffing and blindsiding remain a significant feature infusing the game with a psychological dimension that, if packaged correctly, makes for very interesting television. In no other locus has the concerted effort to look emotionless been so important and entertaining, with of course one of Lady Gaga's songs standing as an exception. Professional players often don shades not to shield from harmful UV rays, but from the probing eyes of their opponents. Very much like how the mandarins of ancient China wore shaded spectacles to give off a cold-heart disposition; a pro poker player would try to hide any outward sign of being pressured.

## A Pendulum of Perspectives

Perhaps, the interplay of all these factors has lent Texas hold'em, and poker in general, an aura of a gentleman's game, and not that of a gambit undertaken







by laggards and lowlives. Indeed, other forms of gambling aren't always viewed in a particularly favorable light, and yet their continued existence speaks of how some segments of society still deem them acceptable.

If anything, views on gambling have swung from outright acceptance to outright abhorrence. Colonists in the United States blamed gambling as the culprit for a dip in the economies of the new world, claiming such a pastime drew people away from truly productive work. Oddly enough, the forefathers promoted lotteries and other forms of gambling as a civic duty, given that proceeds were collected as a tax.

Religious leaders have likewise spoken out against gambling in toto, although some scripture wouldn't necessarily pinpoint it as immoral. In fact, some Jewish traditions involve some gambling as ritual. On the other hand, the revised penal code of the Philippines lists down gambling and betting as crimes against public morals, but is largely silent about card games such as poker. It seems the game is able to straddle the thin line between what is acceptable, what is lauded and what is abhorred in Philippine society.

The onset of online poker has come with more individuals glued to their computer screens, separate from the communal vibe of a poker game, but very much immersed in the addictive rush brought by risking actual money.

In some countries, a gambling addiction is viewed to be no different from a dependency on alcohol or any other controlled substance.

Many individuals have posted on various online forums for poker players, asking about the moral dimensions of the center of their amusement. In the Surly Poker Gnome, the blogger wrote about how his sister claimed skilled poker players are essentially taking advantage of novices when they are particularly addicted. A comment explained that the sister was comparing good poker players to drug dealers, who aren't necessarily addicted but who indelibly profit from the addiction of others. Other forums have advised that instead of actual cash, less valuable things like candies should be wagered.

To be fair, poker isn't necessarily the only game people get addicted on. Images of octogenarians flocking to casinos to play the slot machines have very much become staples of American popular culture. Stories from around the world are rife with protagonists flown into unwanted circumstances due to their wagering ways. The long history of gaming in general can only attest to the fact that in some way or another people do get addicted to taking risks—whether or not it's with cards.

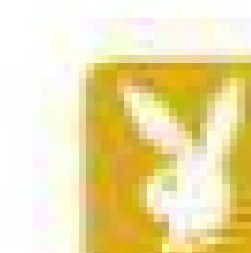
Perhaps the issue then isn't with the game itself, but with how people deal with the consequences of playing the game—which in the end is all about

money. True enough, gambling occupies the gray space between right and wrong, and wherever things aren't so clear cut, poker seems to take its place as the game of choice. On one hand, skill in whatever form will be admired, bestowing poker with an air of being a sport. On the other, the card game would still remain a gambling game, lending itself easily to the greed of the uncontrolled, and the drive of the desperate.

## Weighing the Options

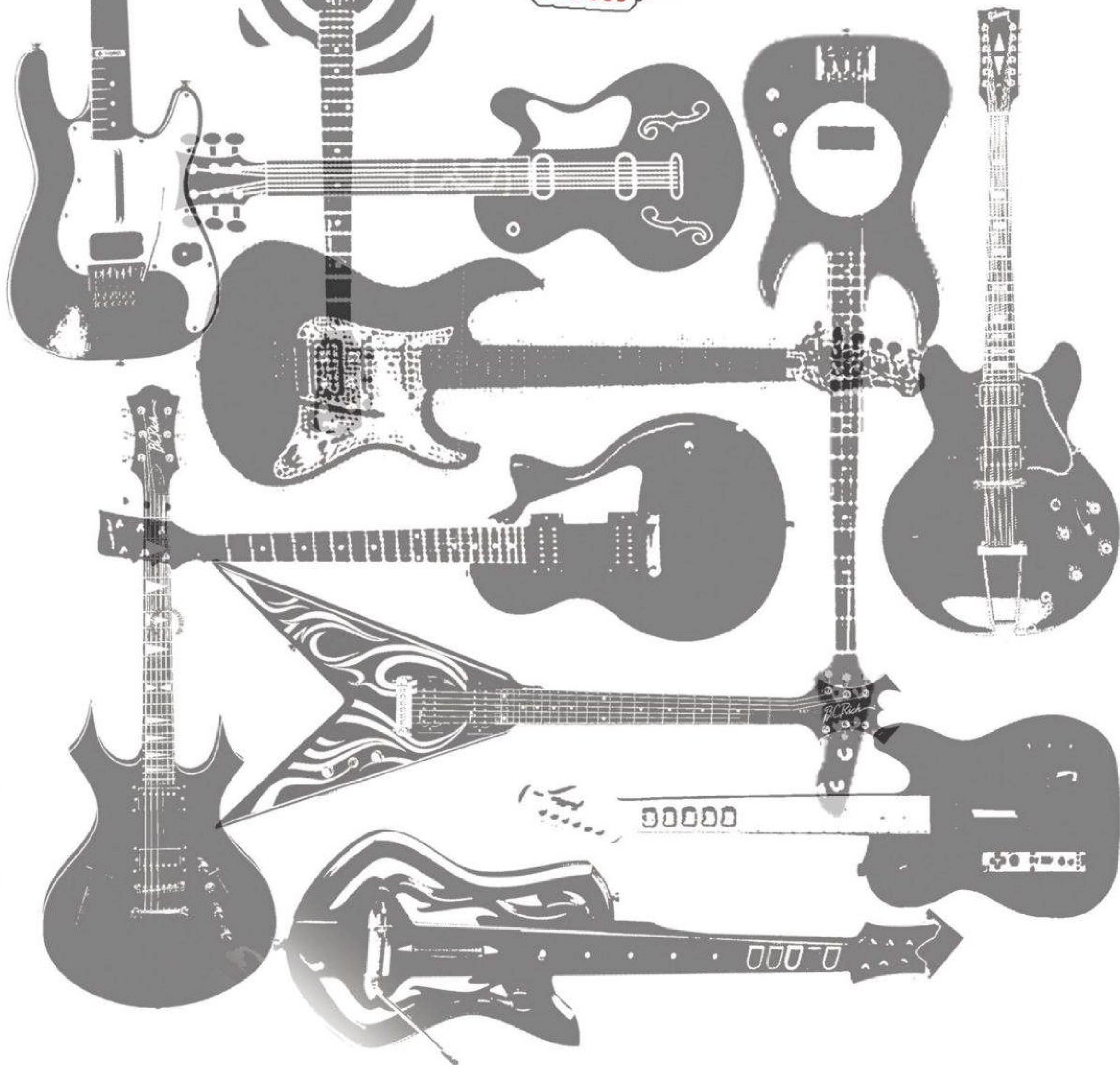
Of course, so many other questions remain—if gambling is not necessarily moral (at times vehemently considered immoral), what's so special about poker that it's relatively permissible, or rather, left alone? Perhaps a better question to ask would be—if everybody's okay with poker, what can explain the vocal disdain for such games as jueteng? How different is poker from jueteng?

For sure, many people are trying to unpack such questions in the appropriate venues and clarify what in fact is wrong (and right) with poker. Regardless, flops will still be laid out, and brave souls would still remark, "all in," with bated breath. In the end, it seems that alongside the frenzy of PCSO's Lotto, and the illegal nature of jueteng, poker will still be played whether or not people think it's okay to do so.





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Registered Sex Workers wear two IDS one issued by LACEM and another issued by the bar that they work for.





# HIV:

## Where it's hiding and why it's growing

By : Ana Santos, with research assistance from Ma. Ernica de Guzman

A hot random sex date is set with a click of the mouse. Casual sex with an acquaintance, or a total stranger is arranged with an exchange of mobile text messages. Sometimes, knowing looks are enough to access sex in a dark alley. This is sex in the Philippines today: secret, but available; hidden but accessible; rampant and potentially dangerous.

She walked in the coffee shop in denim shorts, a towering mirage in her long bare legs laced up in stilettos. A white blouse, seductively baring one shoulder, suggested an ample bosom.

The salesperson behind the counter asked, "May I have your name, sir?"

"Ma'am naman", she pouted. "Victoria," she answered, with a dramatic flip of her long black hair, her dangling earrings jiggling with the movement.

Victoria Rivera, 24, is a transgender. Biologically born a male, she has always considered herself a woman.

Her world is just one of the emerging sub-cultures of clandestine sex, fostered by changing lifestyle, technology and kinship in attitude.

Alive and thriving, experts say these sub-cultures provide a potential breeding playground for sexually transmitted infections and HIV.

Even more worrisome, health experts are having difficulty in reaching out to these high risk groups, further facilitating the spread of HIV and other sex-related infections to the general population.

This piece provides a peek into that world, invisible to some, but a reality for others.

### Transpinays

Rivera is the internal affairs officer of the Society of Transsexual Women of the Philippines (STRAP), the first and only support group of transgender women in the Philippines.

STRAP has about 49 active members. "But those are just members of STRAP, you just need to look around you to see that there are hundreds of transwomen everywhere", said Rivera.

Calling themselves "transpinays", STRAP members are a diverse mix. Some are professionals in corporations; others work in the creative industry and some like Rivera, are engaged in sex work.

Rivera joined the flesh trade in the streets of Hong Kong in 2006, playing cat and mouse with police authorities there.

That is, until she found that she could just as easily sell her services online in the Philippines through the Internet.

"I set up my own site," she says. "Google 'transsexual' or 'transgender sex,' and my site will appear." Her contact numbers and restrictions are listed on the site. A call confirms a "booking," she explained referring to a sex date.

Rivera charges her clients—who are either straight or bi-sexual—as much as USD200 an hour. She used to cater





"I think the line I hear the most often from Pinoy men is, kung naging babae ka lang, but I am a woman!" Victoria Rivera, transexual Pinay

mainly to foreign clients. But Manila is also increasingly becoming a source of lucrative business.

## High risk group

Experts believe that the easy and quick access through the Internet to commercial transgender escorts like Rivera could be one of the factors that contributed to the rising number of men who have tried anal sex with a (biological) man.

In the process, because of the higher risk associated with unprotected anal sex, these men expose themselves to HIV infection.

In 2007, the DOH estimated that there were 223,042 to 669,125 men who were at risk for HIV infection because of having sex with other men. In that same year, it was noted that most of the new HIV infections were coming from this segment of the population who are also often referred to as MSMs (men having sex with men).

"There were no clients before in the Philippines. But now, there is a growing number and they're getting younger and younger," related Rivera.

In the last two years, she estimates she has had at least 20 Filipino clients, 10 of whom she considers "regulars".

And there are countless others, who are curious and interested but "can't afford the price", Rivera said.

She has come a long way.

Rivera recalls her younger years when she was the paying, receptive partner.

"Now, I have Pinoy clients who are married, have kids and want to try transsexual sex and even want to be the receptive [anal] partner." The clients are usually in their mid-20s to mid-40s; most have girlfriends and some are married with children.

Rivera is an exception in this potentially risky group. She strictly implements a "no glove, no love" policy among her customers. "I know the kind of business I'm in. I always use condoms."

A 2007 review entitled, "Size Estimates of Populations at Risk for HIV" conducted by the Department of Health National Epidemiology Center (DOH NEC) indicated that about 1% up to 3% of adult males aged 15-49 have had anal sex with another man in the past year.

But experts say that this data may be flawed because some classifications like "MSM" or "men who have sex with men" exclude other high risk groups.

## Hetero-flexible

For instance, there are heterosexual men who have sex with other men but refuse to identify themselves as gay, Philip Castro, program manager at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) explained.

Contrary to general belief, according to Castro, the MSM segment has many variations. "There are different sub-populations of MSM," he said.

There are the discreet ones, who are either married or have girlfriends. "They are difficult to track as most find their partners online," Castro said.

Transgenders like Rivera are different from MSM because they think of themselves as women, and are thus easy to identify.

Certain terms are used to informally segment MSM. There's "bakla" or the outwardly gay segment; "ladyboy", "effem" (for effeminate), "pa-girl", "parlorista".

And there are those who are known as "shifters" or whose sexual preference bends. In gay lingo, this group are also referred to as "Transformers", "Robocops", "Darwins" or "bisexuals", and "trippers."

This cluster includes the likes of Shinobi.

In a coffee shop inside a crowded mall, Shinobi holds an "eyeball" session with other members of the social networking site, Fetlife. He is with a Fetlife member, an engineer, and they are poring over sketches and measurements for paddles, whips and contraptions. These are going to be used to suspend a bound and gagged human body.

Fetlife is a network of "fetishists" or those who live the BDSM (bondage, domination, sadism and masochism) lifestyle.

The members, who hide themselves using the codenames on their Fetlife profile, think of bondage as an art form, as practiced in the Japanese art of shibari. Shinobi claims that he is the only openly practicing male bondage artist in the Philippines.

"The circle of fetishists in the Philippines is still a small one, but growing," Shinobi admitted. "It's hard to tell how many exactly because many don't want to come out. Others are just beginning to try it."

Shinobi has 6 different female partners he dominates called "submissives". He also has one exclusive partner.

The youngest of his partners is 22 years old and the oldest is in her late 30s. Shinobi met all of them online. "Years ago, it was through chatrooms,



then there were sites like Manilatonite. Now, there are sites like Fetlife for groups who have similar interests.”

Shinobi gets requests from both men and women who want to experience the art of bondage.

While it doesn't always involve sex, occasionally, men ask him to perform oral sex on them. “I'm hetero-flexible”, he said, “I don't have a problem performing oral sex or giving anal sex to another man.”

## Easy pickings

The 2003 Behavioral Sentinel Surveillance report conducted by the DOH, revealed that MSMs reported an average of two partners per month. Some reported as many as 55 sex partners per month. The median age of the respondents was 15 years old.

The number of sex partners of those that fall in the higher end of the spectrum attests to the fact that sexual partners are easy to come by. Some are strangers they meet online or casual acquaintances at work or church. Others are referred by other friends. Some become friends after an initial sexual encounter.

With sexual partners being easy pickings and condom use being dismally low at 2.8%, according to the National Health and Demographic Survey (NDHS) of 2008, the sexual behavior of MSMs indicates that they could be prime candidates for STI and HIV.

Shinobi always uses condoms as a general rule. But he admitted to sometimes forgetting especially with a submissive who has become a regular.

In the last four years, he estimates that he had been with at least 20 different women, and a handful of men.

He also had one STI scare. One of his female submissives had gotten a

bad case of herpes and accused him of being the source. “I got tested and had my other girls tested. We were all clear. It was her latest partner who got her infected,” Shinobi disclosed.

## Cyber sex

Rivera and Shinobi's world may cater to the older group but there is no doubt that it is the bigger segment of the population—the youth--- that are especially vulnerable to accessible sex via online means.

University of the Philippines Psychology Department Professor Chei Billedo, one of the few experts who specializes in the new field of cyber psychology or the persona that one assumes on-line, described the youth as, “...a generation born into technology.”

She explained, “They don't know of a world without the internet and the difference between offline and online experiences blurs.”

Explaining how people interact and form relationships in cyber space, Billedo said: “Online, [because you don't see each other], you make an identity for yourself—one that may be totally different from what you are really like.”

In the safety of anonymity, “It becomes easy to start an exchange of sexual innuendos; foreplay begins even while on-line. So when you meet, it is a consummation of the initial cyber foreplay.”

From the interviews she has conducted among young people for various research papers, Billedo had this to say: “It's so easy. The results are very quick and they like it that way. You don't have to go out for dinner, or make ligaw pa.”

“It's like the way we are used to consuming media now—on demand. We expect sex to be on demand as well,”

Billedo concluded.

## Cyber social circles

Social media is largely the culprit for this phenomenon.

Gatner, Inc. a US-based IT research company, recently released a study that identified the Philippines as a country of the “most avid social networkers.” The Philippines has the 6th highest penetration of Twitter worldwide. Locally, Facebook is the most visited internet site.

The 2009 Nielsen Media Index of Internet behavior revealed that the people in one's cyber social circle differ by age group.

For the 15 to 19 age group, the highest number of people within their cyber social circle are those they knew only in the virtual world, people they met once or twice in person and referrals by friends.

Comparatively, people in the contacts list of those in the 20 to 29 age bracket are mostly friends that they've lost contact with.

While there is no study that directly relates the impact of online engagement to being sexually active, there are accounts like that of GJayo, 23, a trainer at a call center in Quezon City.

GJayo\* lost his virginity to a girl he met online when he was 17. The girl was 16 years old. “We connected in a chatroom, met up in person and went to a cheap motel.”, he said simply.

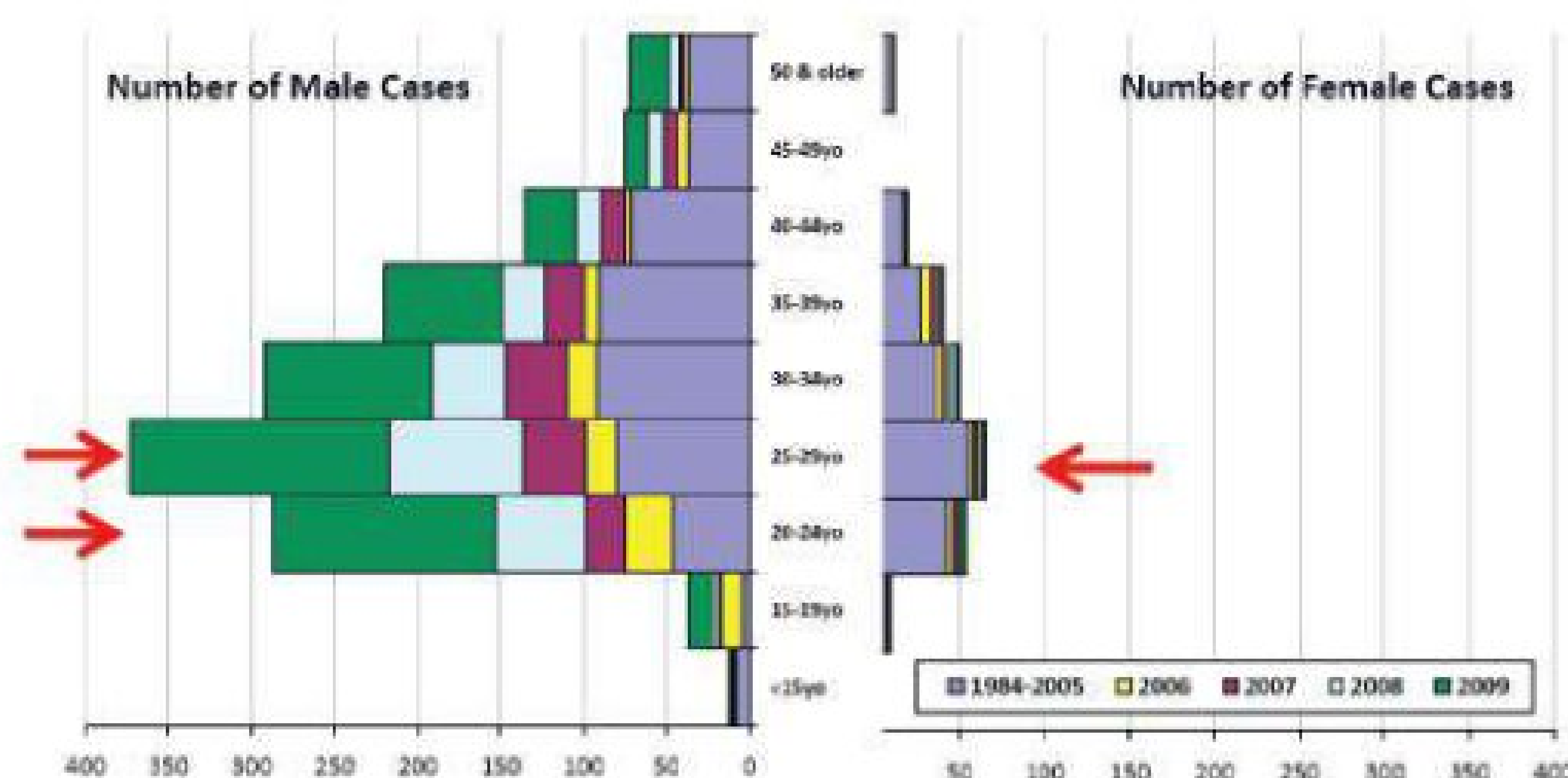
Casual sex led to pregnancy. They decided to terminate the pregnancy and the casual relationship.

Shortly after, he met another girl online and again got her pregnant. Abortion was again resorted to.

More than the pregnancy, GJayo got concerned about rashes that have

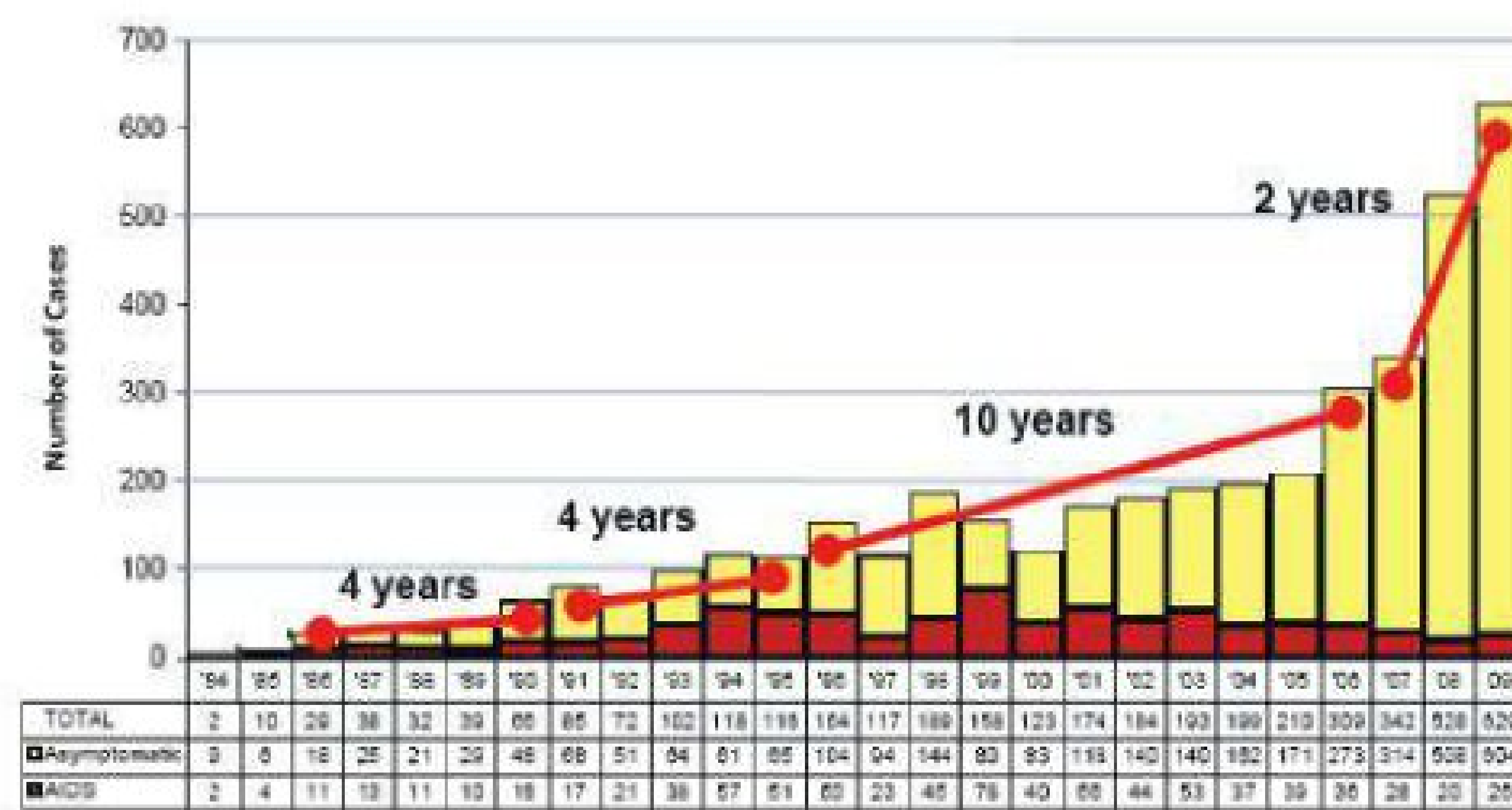
### Distribution of HIV Cases by Age & Sex

January 1984 – October 2009 (N=4,218)



The number of HIV / AIDS cases in the Philippines has been growing double time. As of 2009, there are two new cases diagnosed every day.

### Doubling Time of HIV & AIDS Cases in the Philippines



Men make up most of the HIV cases, with bulk being between the ages of 20-29.

Source: “This is it!”: A presentation made by the National Epidemiology Center (NEC) in December 2009.





To identify themselves as dancers and Guest Relations Officers (GROs), their IDs have a pink stripe that runs across the bottom.

appeared on his upper thighs. He was afraid that he had gotten a STI.

He was vague and dismissive when asked about this. "I went to a derma, had it checked and just took antibiotics for it", he said and dismissed the question.

### In denial

While technology opened the Pandora's box to easy sex, it failed, however, to overcome the shame that often comes as a consequence of risky sex. It also failed to educate the public on its dangers.

Shame, shrouded in denial and coated with ignorance, hinders people from seeking medical treatment for STIs says Dr. Marcellano Cruz, a board member of the Philippine Society of Venereologists, Inc. (PSVI), a group of 3,000 physicians across various medical disciplines like dermatology, infectious disease, and family medicine.

"They are afraid of the stigma so they just self-medicate," Cruz said.

It is a dangerous attitude.

In September, PSVI hosted a conference warning about the dangers of STIs that go unreported and undiagnosed. STIs, if untreated may lead to infertility, mental disorientation and sometimes death.

It also makes one more vulnerable to being infected by HIV.

According to the 2003 National Demographic Health Survey, only 7.6% of men aged 15-19 and less than 2.2% of those aged 20-49 reported an STI or STI symptoms.

In the 2004 DOH data, there were 221 cases of gonorrhea and 64 cases of Chlamydia reported. But Cruz warned that this number is underreported and does not paint an accurate picture for a number of reasons.

For one, private clinics and hospitals are not required to report STI incidence among patients. There is no regulation on the tracking of STIs and after the 2004 data, no recent studies were done on STIs, Cruz said.

Cruz, a dermatologist, said some of his patients come in for a consultation without being aware that he has STI or is showing symptoms for one. As STIs usually manifest on the skin, dermatologists are often the first to be consulted.

"Sexual history is needed to make a diagnosis. That's when I find out that they have had unprotected sex with various multiple sex partners," he said.

Social media is not only the culprit. STDs and HIV have found its niche in workplaces, experts say, courtesy of young professionals working in call centers.

Packed with young, mobile and moneyed young people, the call center industry has been labeled a natural magnet for STIs and HIV. Estimates show that about 80% of all contact center employees are in their early to mid-twenties, each earning around Php16,000 a month.

In a study made by the Philippine General Hospital (PGH) during the





## Sex and the workplace

period November 2009 to January 2010 involving 406 male respondents, over half of those who were tested positive for HIV were call center agents.

The PGH study was bolstered by a March 2010 study by the University of the Philippines Population Institute (UPPI) that revealed that call center employees are more likely to engage in risky sexual behavior compared to those who do not work in call centers.

The UPPI study was conducted in Metro Manila and Metro Cebu, covered 16 call centers and 675 respondents, all below the age of 35.

For comparative purposes, some 254 employees from different industries were also interviewed.

The study revealed that:

- The prevalence of risky sexual activity is higher among call center respondents for casual sex, non-romantic regular sex ("friends with benefits" or "fuck buddies"), unprotected sex with multiple

sex partners, sex with same gender and commercial sex."

- Significantly more call center respondents had casual sex as compared to non-call center employees. (40% vs 27%)

- Male call center respondents reported a higher average number of partners than non-call center employees, at 3.2 vs 2.2

- More than 40% of the respondents reported that their last sexual encounter was unprotected.

Grace Cruz, UPPI director, however, has a caveat. "The report did not examine timing, so these behaviors may have been initiated long before the respondents started working in a call center." The impact of social media and the Internet on how people engage in relationships was also not studied.

Eric Manalastas of the UP Psychology Department describes call centers as "strong situations" "where one re-

## In the City of Angels, they use condoms

**Five days a week, rain or shine, bar girls can be seen lining up in the Angeles City's reproductive health and wellness center for their weekly STI test.**

Angeles City - It is a scene that has become a part of life in this "entertainment capital of the Philippines".

The Reproductive Health and Wellness Center (RHWC) issues health cards to the bar girls, which allows them to work in a licensed establishment like a bar, massage parlor or a karaoke bar as a regular or contractual employee.

The IDs are color-coded according to one's work description.

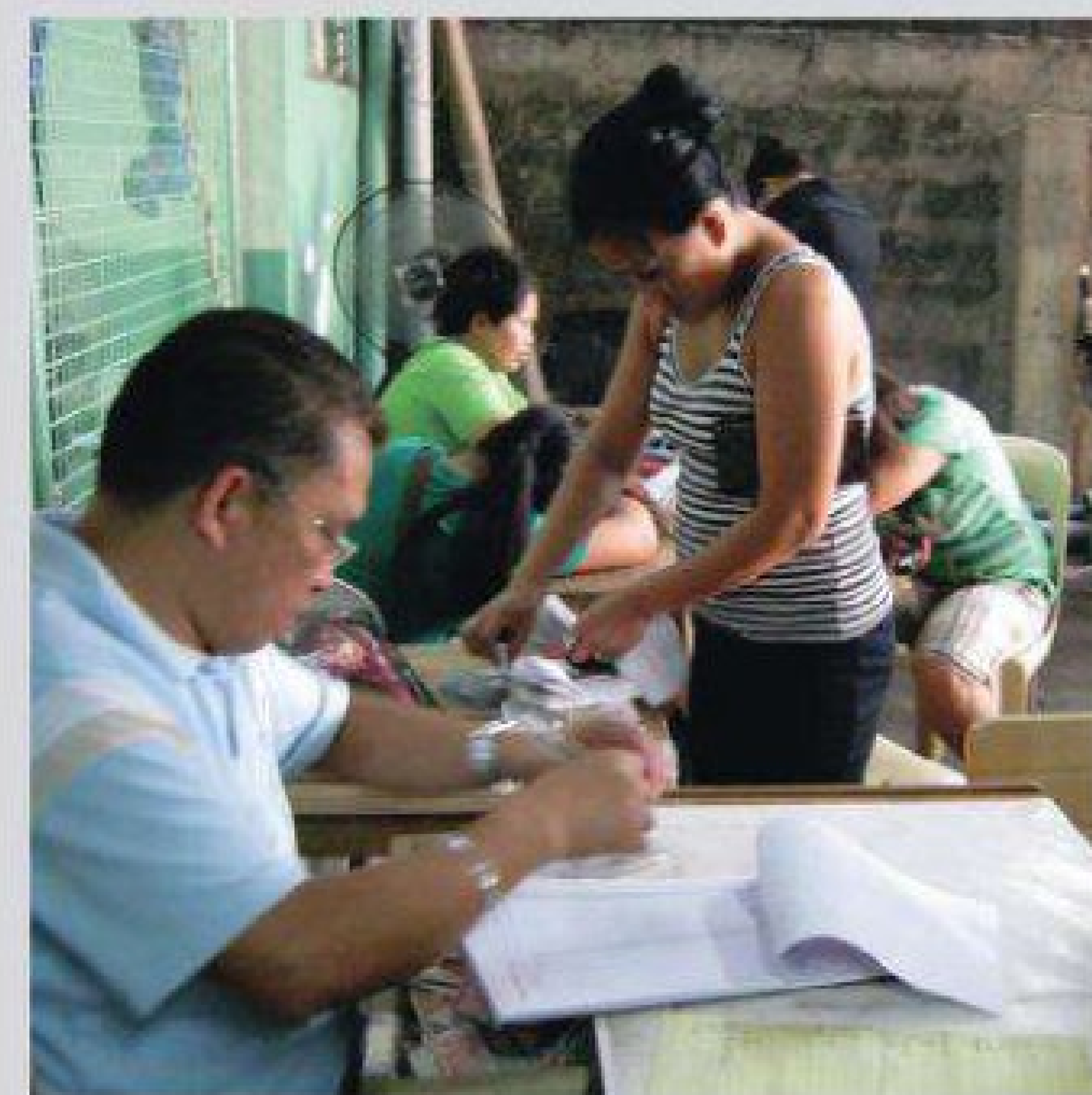
The RHWC program is part of the 100% Condom Use Programme (CUP) that the Department of Health (DOH) launched in 2003, targeting the cities of Urdaneta, Dagupan, Laoag San Fernando, La Union and Angeles.

The CUP was patterned after a similar initiative in Thailand which saw a drastic drop in HIV infection among commercial sex workers and their clients, and to the general population, after the program's implementation.

In Angeles City, in line with the policy and a local city ordinance on HIV and AIDS prevention, bars were mandated to distribute condoms for free and to display HIV awareness messages.

The League of Angeles City Entertainers and Managers (LACEM), a group of more than 102 bar owners and managers, together with the RHWC, combine efforts to implement this policy.

In order to work, girls are registered with the RHWC and are given an ID. Guest Relations Officers (GROs) and dancers sport IDs with a pink stripe; while IDs for



It's busy every day at the Angeles City Reproductive Health and Wellness Center. Working on a rotating schedule, bars are designated one day per week for their RSWs to come in for their smear test.





Registered Sex Workers must get a weekly smear to her for common STIs. The results of these smear tests are logged in her Health Card.

fashions his identity, one's sense of right or wrong."

The erratic working hours isolate call center employees from others who have regular day jobs. This displacement makes the call center not just a workplace, but one's reality.

Manalastas cited examples like jails, OFW populations, and same sex schools "where they create their own subculture because they are somewhat disconnected from reality".

The Contact Center Association of the Philippines (CCAP) denies that call centers have become a hotbed of STIs and HIV.

"I will not say that [casual sex] it is not happening in call centers, but I don't understand why we are the only industry being highlighted." Jojo Uligan, CCAP director, said.

Uligan says there are "solid health and wellness programs" which cover STI prevention in all call centers. But he admitted that condoms are not distributed in the work place so as not to be perceived as promoting casual sex.

## More sex, low condom use

As easy access to risky sex has gone unchecked, health authorities worry that HIV could just make a grand entrance.

The Philippines has been classified as "low and slow" in HIV infection, but such description may not be accurate anymore.

While more people are engaging in unprotected sex with multiple partners, condom use remains dismally low.

A Reuters report identified the Philippines as having the lowest condom use in Asia.

Experts say that elements indicative of a rising epidemic are here: low condom use, multiple and concurrent partners, high mobility (in relation to OFWs), and increasing practice of anal sex among MSM.

There are signs pointing towards this possibility.

In 2009, there were two new HIV cases reported everyday. The latest numbers in 2010 show that there are now five new HIV cases reported everyday.

Health experts are now struggling to keep within the goal of less than 1% prevalence among the most at-risk groups.

They are, only now, starting to uncover where the epidemic is hiding and to acknowledge why it is growing.



*The article was produced under the Maggie de Pano Fund for Investigative Reporting on Health. The Fund, which is managed by Newsbreak, is funded through a grant from Macare Medicals, Inc.*

*The author is a freelance journalist whose area of interest is sexual health rights. She also advocates safer sex practices and HIV/AIDS awareness through her personal website, SexAndSensibilities.com.*

*Name of the respondent has been changed upon their request.*

cashiers and other personnel have a green stripe on it.

The dancers and the GROs have to prominently display their IDs while they are on duty. LACEM estimated that there are around 7,000 registered sex workers in their records.

The results of the smear tests are recorded by LACEM in a monthly smear report which also contains 1 x1 pictures of the girls. The RHCW also keeps track of the results in a booklet called a health card. The health card looks like a library card stamped with test dates of her weekly smears.

If infected, they are given antibiotics for treatment. Their health cards are kept by the RHCW staff to monitor their condition.

While undergoing treatment, a registered sex worker will still be allowed to work at the bar, but will not be allowed to take home clients. The floor manager of the bar, who is notified of her condition, will not accept the client's payment of a bar fine to take a sex worker out.

Lyn Velasco, chief nurse at RHCW, says LACEM has been vigilant in "keeping track of their girls".

According to Velasco, apart from the weekly smears, condom distribution and awareness programs, mass HIV counseling and testing are conducted twice a year.

Trixie, 20 a GRO at La Bamba Bar, said she welcomes the idea of condom use. In a clipped English accent, she said, "I'm not tryin' to be cute with you or nothing, but I can make as much as P80,000 here."

According to the External Assessment Report done in 2007 to evaluate the 100% CUP program, "there is no information on condom use rate in four of the five cities visited, except for Angeles which reported 67%."

The report went on to say that, despite efforts from the DOH and other stakeholders, "no concrete results were documented" and that "with no assessment results and evidence of success if there were, it was extremely difficult to move it [100% CUP] forward."

There was little evidence to support if program implementation was successful or not.

Angeles City was the only one to report 67% condom use, but this was still below the goal of 90%.

But it has paid off. From being identified in the 2003 IHBSS as the number one site for HIV infection, Angeles City is no longer in the top three.

According to the IHBSS of 2009, Angeles City has less than 1% HIV or syphilis prevalence. The top three cities with more than 1% HIV prevalence were identified as Metro Cebu, Metro Davao and Metro Manila.

Apparently, it pays to use condoms even in the company of angels.





# PLAYBOY CASTING CALL

We want you! PLAYBOY is looking for the most beautiful women to grace our pages. If you think you have what it takes to join the Playboy Family as a Playmate or Bunny, come to our Casting Calls!



Drop by our office at 2502-C West Tower, Philippine Stock Exchange Centre, Ortigas Center, Pasig City!  
Casting Calls are held every Friday, from 1PM onwards. Bring your set cards!  
For inquiries, please contact Ms. Beng Miranda at [mdmiranda@pbphil.com](mailto:mdmiranda@pbphil.com), or call:  
**631-2288 / 687-6291 / 0917-5759380 / 0917-PLAYBOY**





# CASINO BASICS

## OUT OF THE BOX

By Nikki Yarte

**M**aybe my dad had a wicked sense of humor or he was being creative with the way he was pushing me towards certain hobbies, but one of the presents he gave me when I was younger was this 12-in-1 game set from ProSport. This handy box contained small playing cards, chess pieces, domino tiles, and even a pool table. What I realized later on was that this magical box also contained the building blocks in the making of a gambler.





**“If a barely 12-year old wanted to make easy money at the time, I could have brought the entire set along to school and run a little casino and have my classmates gamble their lunch money away!”**

Nestled among more innocent games like checkers are provisions for blackjack, backgammon, casino craps, and even roulette - complete with a mini spinning wheel and little poker chips! If a barely 12-year old wanted to make easy money at the time, I could have brought the entire set along to school and run a little casino and have my classmates gamble their lunch money away!

Of course, the school would not have allowed it. I did however learn the basics of some of the more popular casino games from that versatile box of goodies. If you're a newbie to the world of casinos, then you should probably kick your gambling career off with these games because the rules are easy enough to understand. In particular, the games of blackjack and roulette, which are both popular and fun plus they get a lot of action and attention over at PAGCOR.

After all, if a grade school boy can learn them, so can you, right?

## BLACKJACK

As catchy as the phrase “Hit me” is, so are the basics of the game of blackjack easy enough to understand. The main objective is to get the value of the cards on the player's hand higher than the dealer's without going over 21, which in blackjack terms is called “busting” but more on that later.

To get to 21, understand the value system for each card in the game. Smaller cards from 2 to 9 are valued according to their number regardless of suit. So a 2 of hearts or a 2 of clubs is worth 2 points each. When it comes to the higher-ranking cards of 10, Jack, King and Queen, they are all valued at 10 points each also regardless of suit. As for the Ace of any suit, it can be valued either as 11 points or 1 point depending on what would be

beneficial for the hand.

Speaking of hands, the highest combination in the game is the BLACKJACK or natural, which consists of a single 10-point card and an ace of any suit.

Other hands to consider are the soft hand and the hard hand. A soft hand is when an ace can be valued at 1 or 11 without the danger of busting. For example, a combination of an 8 of hearts and an ace of diamonds yields a value of either 9 or 19. A hard hand is when the combination calls for the value of the ace to be strictly 1 only. Should we add a 4 of spades to the previous example, the value of the hand would bust at 23 if the ace is valued at 11. Naturally, the ace is valued at only 1 for a safe total of 13 points. A hard hand is also when two cards without aces is already in danger of busting should we add a third card - a 10 of clubs and a 9 of diamonds, for example.

In a typical game, the bets are placed and the dealer hands out two cards each to the players on the table, including himself. The catch is that while both cards for each player are dealt face up and in full view of everyone and their mother, only one of the dealer's will be revealed. From there, you will have the option of choosing one out of four moves:

**Stand** - You ask for no more cards because you have been dealt a hard hand and would risk busting if you ask for one more.

**Hit** - You ask for one more card because your hand has a small total value and could risk one or more cards until you stand, bust or actually reach 21. You can hit for as many times as you like but should your hand bust, you are out of the game and your bet is lost.

**Double Down** - You think KFC got the trademark for this? Think again! To double down is to double your bet in exchange for only one card to add to





**“When you’re ready to advance to the next level and learn about how the pros rake in loads of cash just from playing blackjack or roulette, Google is your friend. There are tricks and tips online that can help you improve your chances. Heck, there are even online casinos where newbies can learn and practice these games.”**

your hand. Very good if your total value is around 11 points because the highest number you can add to it is 10 and you are in no danger of busting.

**Split** - Your two cards are of the same value. You can split your hand into two, effectively increasing your chances twofold at the cost of doubling your total bet, which is also split between each new hand. Dealer adds one card each and you play both hands as you would a single hand - you either stand, hit, or double down.

When all the players have settled their hands, the dealer then reveals his second card. If the cards total 17 and above, the dealer automatically stands, but at 16 below, the dealer hits. Then, the comparison begins. If a player is lucky enough to get a black jack, the payoff is usually 3 to 2. If the value of a player's hand is equal to that of the dealer's, it's pretty much a draw, a “push” in blackjack parlance, and player keeps his bet. If a player's hand is higher than the dealer's or reaches 21 but is not a blackjack, the payoff is usually 1 to 1. That leaves us with the player with the lesser value of cards than the dealer's who automatically loses his bet. Same goes if a hand busts.

There are other variations to the game and strategies to consider but that pretty much covers up the 411 or the 101 or whatever digits you prefer on the game of



## Casino Etiquette

So this is your first time gambling in a casino. No harm there. Whether you're in any of PAGCOR's branches or in Macau, the scene is always alive and pumping and you just want to get in on the action. If you were smart enough, you would have learned the rules of the games beforehand. Or you can just settle for the slot machines. Up to you.

If you do intend to play the more social games like blackjack or roulette, for example, keep in mind that you won't be the only player on the table and that there is a code of etiquette to follow. Yes, even gambling can be an honorable past time. After all casinos often employ bouncers to cast out violators. Thankfully, you would not have to run into such troubles during your first time in a casino. That is what this handy dandy guide is for.

### 1. Shutterbugged

Sorry, we know you want to snap photos of every second of your vacation for memory's sake, but a camera is just not welcome on the table. Depending on the casino, you can take pictures of the surrounding décor since most of them are made to be breathtakingly spectacular anyway, but never ever take a snapshot of an actual game.

### 2. Game Interrupted

Do not ever buy into a game that has already begun. It is the height of rudeness to interrupt a dealer even if he is just in the process of handing out cards, for example, just so you can buy in at the earliest possible opportunity. Wait until the current game had taken its course before declaring your intent to join. Otherwise, you will risk offending the other players who have probably worked out strategies in their heads with the number of players already present.



blackjack. Speaking of, let's move on to a game that is all about the digits.

## ROULETTE

Of all the gambling schemes, this one screams the most of European sophistication. Even without opening up a browser and looking it up on Wikipedia, we can already tell it is of French origin. It is a terrifically fun betting game in the same vein as last year's P740-billion lotto draw, but without the added emotional and physical hassle. The odds are a lot better too - as high as 50/50 in fact, though the payoff is conversely lower.

You can probably picture the typical set up from watching James Bond who has had his fair share of roulette in his storied almost 40-year career. There is a spinning wheel with markings for 37 or 38 digits, depending if the wheel is of European or American origin. A European wheel usually has digits from 0 to 36 while the American version adds a 00. Half of the 36 digits on the wheel is framed by a red box while the other half is encased in black. The 0 and 00 are traditionally in green.

First, let us begin the game with the dealer or croupier calling on all players to "place their bets", which entails them placing their chips on various spots on the board. What's great about roulette is that you can place as much bets as you can and even improve your chances at winning at least as much as you bet. Another advantage for beginners is that the betting board is pretty intuitive and self-explanatory. The 36 numbers are arranged in squares of 12 rows and 3 columns with the 0 and/or 00 on top. On the side are squares marked odd, even, red, black, 1 - 18, and 19 - 36. So it's pretty easy to see how one can bet in roulette, but there are rules that are not readily discernible just by looking at the board.

The general rule is that the higher the probability, the lower the payoff as illustrated in this handy guide:

- A straight-up bet is when you declare to all the world that the ball will land on the one number (between 1 to 36 or on 0 or 00) that you placed your chips on, on the board. That is a slim 1 in 38 chance of winning but the payoff of 35 to 1 is really motivational.
- A split is when you place your bet right smack between two numbers indicating that the ball would land at either of the two for a 17 to 1 payoff.
- A trio, as the name implies, is when you bet on three numbers in a given row as indicated by placing your chip at the edge of the row. This pays off 11 to 1.
- A corner is a bet for four numbers by placing the chip where the four digits intersect. Yields a payoff of 8 to 1.
- There is a variation of the four-number

bet where the chip is placed at the edge of the board between 0 and the first three digits. In American-style roulette, this becomes a five-number bet with the addition of 00. Both variation's payoff is 6 to 1.

- A six-number bet allows you to bet on two rows of number by placing your chip on the edge where the two rows meet. Payoff is 5 to 1.

- There are also 12-number bets where you can place your chips either on 1 - 12, 13 - 24, or 25 - 36. Since the numbers are also divided into three columns, you can bet that the ball would land on any of the numbers from each column. The payoff on either scenario is 2 to 1.

The last one guarantees at least a 50% chance of winning at a small payoff of 1 to 1. This involves betting that the resultant number from the spin would either be odd or even, on a red or a black square, or would be from 1 - 18 or 19 - 36.

Each player would have a differently colored set of chips for the sake of identification. When the croupier declares that there can be "no more bets", the wheel is spun and a ball is thrown in around the inside rim of the wheel. When friction and momentum eventually take their toll, the wheel will slow down and stop and the ball would have settled into one of the 37 to 38 digits. The croupier then pays off the players who got lucky and takes away the chips of those less fortunate. Should the ball land on a 0 or a 00, players generally would lose half their bet. This differs from casino to casino so do check their rules first.

## EVEN ODDS

What makes both games particularly inviting for beginners is that the odds are not stacked against a player unlike in a game of poker or even the slot machine. Make no mistake though: you can still lose. A helluva lot actually. Which is why it is necessary to understand the odds and the payoff exchange. If you ever want to try your luck at PAGCOR, Macau or maybe Las Vegas or Atlantic City one of these days, be sure to bring this handy guide with you. We're sure no one else would object to you bringing a copy of Playboy along.

When you're ready to advance to the next level and learn about how the pros rake in loads of cash just from playing blackjack or roulette, Google is your friend. There are tricks and tips online that can help you improve your chances. Heck, there are even online casinos where newbies can learn and practice these games. So there is no need to go looking for that magical ProSport boxex game set. They probably don't make them anymore.



### 3. The Kiddie Table

There is no such thing in a casino, and while other players will congratulate you on your adorable newborn, the sound of a screeching needy baby will drive them batty so please leave your kids at home with your mother or a sitter if you intend to take a break from all your parental duties. Besides, casinos are probably just as family-friendly as your friendly neighborhood adult bookstore.

### 4. Tipping the Scales

Nobody likes a braggart, so waving money around like some pimp in a music video in bling and fur regalia would not impress anybody at the table. However, your dealer and your waitress would appreciate a little measure of gallantry. It doesn't have to be overly generous. A hundred bucks or so will do. Such a small token of appreciation for their service would go a long way to ensuring you have a better time the next time you come around and that's hardly a gamble.

Most of all: don't forget to have fun. Gambling money away is by no means an easy past time, but never be a sore loser. You are there to lose money as much as to make some.



# Ethereal Muse

For some of you, Naomi Estefan might look a bit familiar. You may have seen her before on high heels carrying a numbered suitcase, standing in line with 26 other beautiful ladies. She was present for one of the seasons of the now defunct game show *Deal or No Deal*. Those of you who have been to any of our PLAYBOY events would also know her, thanks mostly to her participation in many of our fashion shows.

Given her experience with TV and the ramp, you totally wouldn't expect her to be shy at all. She is however, the most timid among our little family of playmates. She was mostly quiet during the shoot and would only occasionally spark up a faint smile. Her sheepish personality is the modern epitome of a Maria Clara but with a more modern twist. All this would magically disappear however once she stepped under the glare of the flashbulbs into the range of our photographer's lens.

As the next few pages would clearly show, Naomi has the looks that could melt the polar ice caps as she stomps through our pages in her hot heels. The statuesque beauty stands tall and confident during the shoot, unbothered by those around her. Not bad for a shy Maria Clara who hasn't even done a solo shoot before. After the shoot however, she reverts back to her silent shyness as she relates that she actually had fun during the shoot.

Away from the TV camera, ramp and lens, Naomi lives a very different life. One of her many hobbies is cooking which she has plans of turning into a career one day. She's currently studying culinary arts and hopes to graduate with flying colours. Cooking for her is almost akin to traveling when she gets to taste the finest cuisines from different cultures.

Her dream is to one day become a celebrity chef and to maybe help out in her family's business.

**PHOTOGRAPHED BY:** Joser Dumbrique

**STYLED BY:** Mark Shandii Bacolod

**HAIR & MAKE-UP BY:** Yves Marcelo

























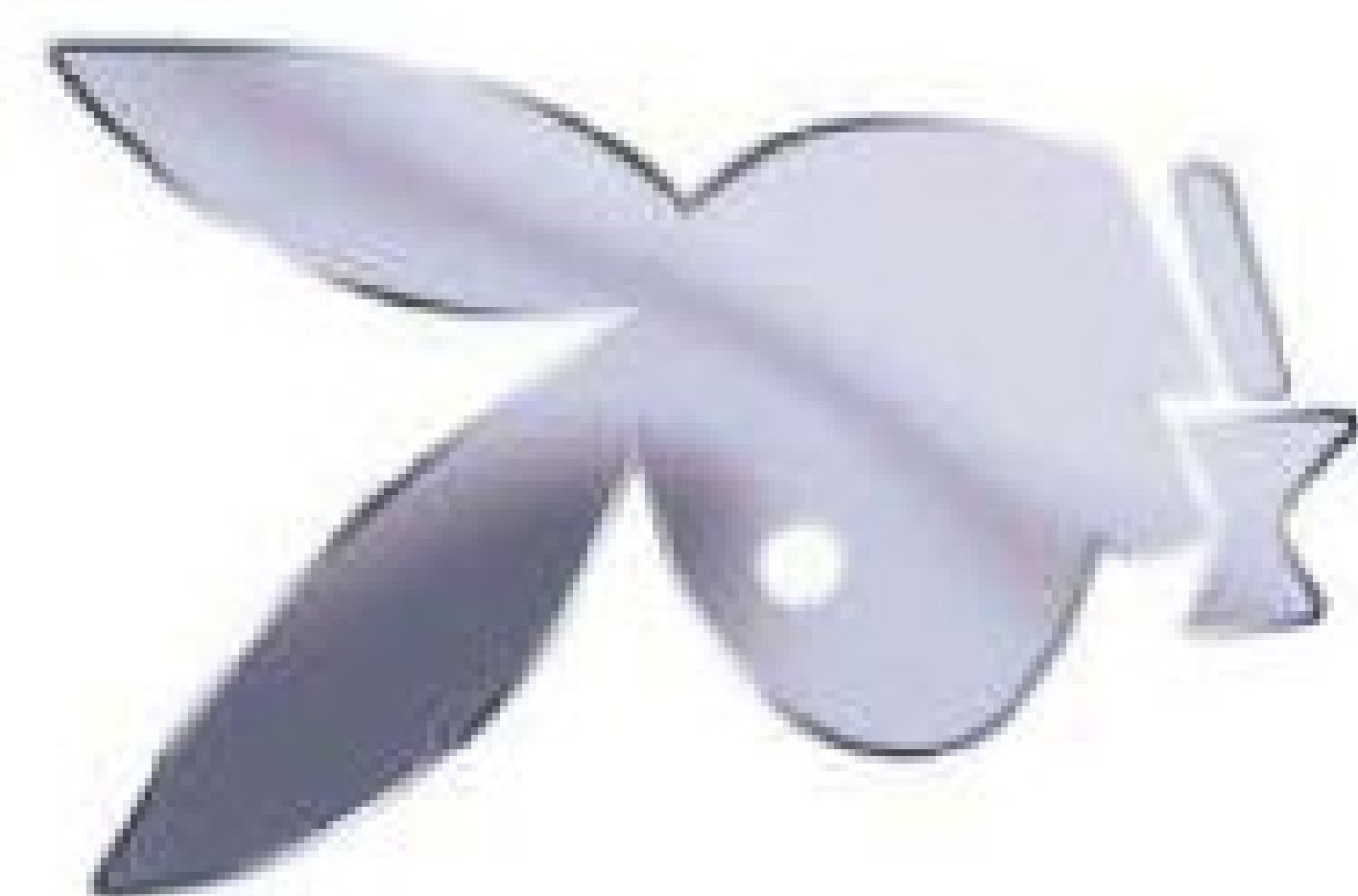






CHAMPION OF THE MONTH NEOMI ESTEFAN

MISS JANUARY 2011







# Playmate Data Sheet

**Name:** Naomi Estefan

**Nick:** Mimi

**Date of Birth:** May 15, 1990

**Age:** 20

**Height:** 5'6

**Weight:** 105lbs.

**Bust:** 34

**Waist:** 25

**Hips:** 36

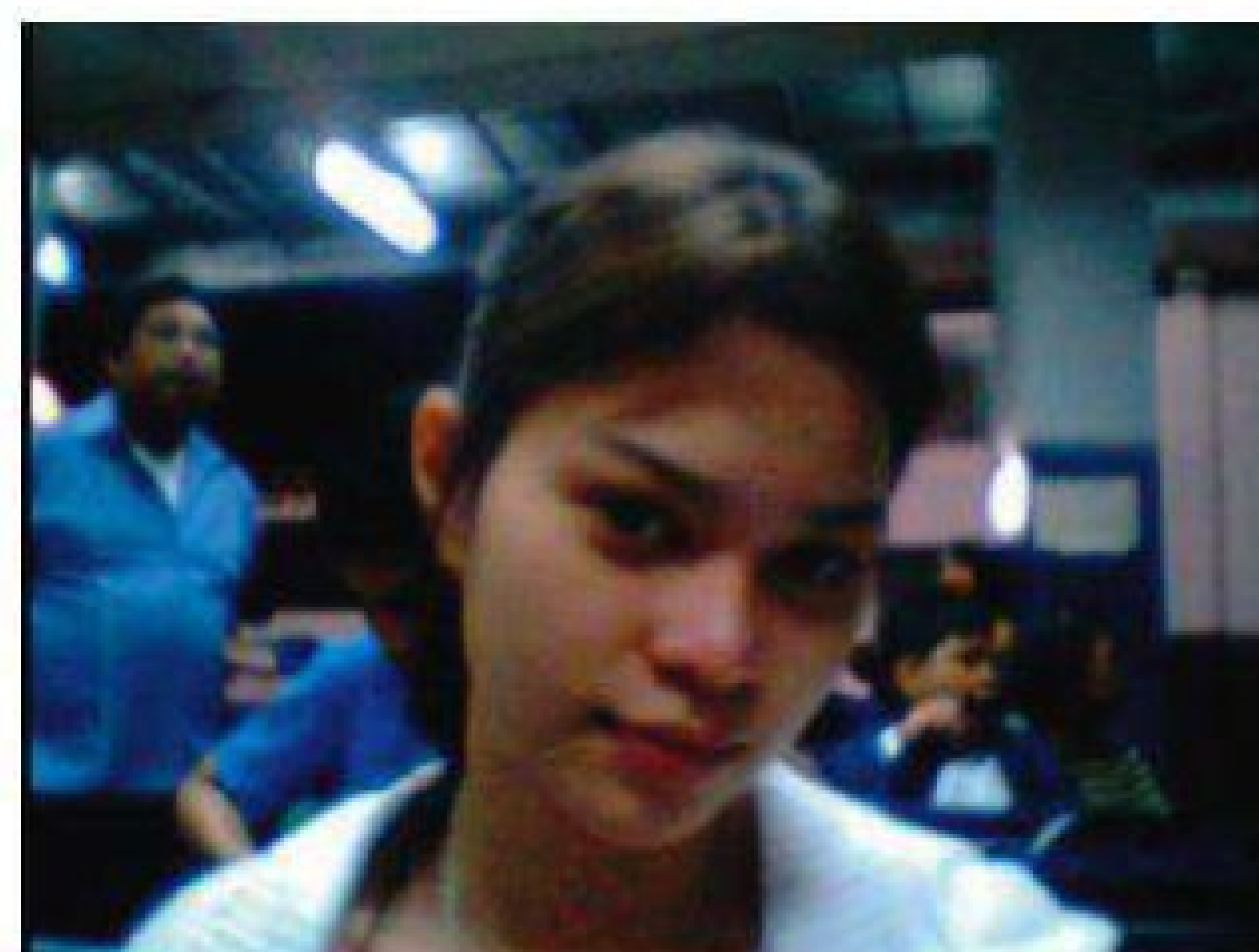
**Turn-ons:** Clean shaven face, patient, non-smoker, family oriented, has an ambition and someone who will always make me smile.

**Turn-offs:** Man who smokes, is arrogant and untidy

**Favorite song:** Energy

**Favorite Dessert:** Apple Tartatin

**Hobbies:** Cooking

















# PLAYBOY Party Jokes

A man came home from work one evening and found his wife in their bedroom, packing a suitcase. "Where are you going?" he asked. "I'm moving to Las Vegas," she said. "I heard that in Vegas I can get \$300 to do what I do with you." The man pulled out another suitcase and started packing his things. "Where do you think you're going?" his wife asked. "Well," he replied. "I have to see how the hell you manage to live on \$600 a year."

Why do men like women in leather?  
Because they smell like new cars.

A man was having dinner at a friend's home when he noticed that his friend preceded every request to his wife with endearing terms like honey, darling, sweetheart and pumpkin. The man was impressed by his friend's effusive displays of affection because he knew the couple had been married more than 50 years. When the wife went into the kitchen to get coffee, the man told his friend, "I think it's wonderful that after all these years you still call your wife by such sweet names." "The truth is," the friend replied, "I forgot her name 10 years ago."

As the anesthesia wore off after his back surgery, a man slowly opened his eyes and saw his wife sitting by his hospital bed. "You're so beautiful," he said and promptly fell back asleep. Since his wife hadn't heard her husband say anything that sweet in years, she decided to stay by his bedside. Half an hour later, his eyes fluttered open again, and when he saw her he said, "You're so cute." "Cute?" she said, unable to hide her disappointment. "What happened to beautiful?" "The drugs are wearing off," He replied.

What is the definition of making love? It's something a woman does while a man is fucking her.

A young couple got married on the spur of the moment in Las Vegas, and when they were checking into a hotel for the night, the husband asked if it would be possible for them to get the honeymoon suite.



"Do you have reservations?" the receptionist asked. "Only one," the groom replied. "She won't do anal."

There are three stages of sex in a man's life: triweekly, try weekly and try weakly.

A woman walked into a store to return a pair of eyeglasses she had purchased for her husband a week earlier. "What seems to be the problem with the glasses, ma'am?" the clerk asked. "I gave these to my husband, but they don't work," she replied. "He's still not seeing things my way."

What is a man's idea of safe sex?  
A padded headboard.

A man was at a bar, and just as it was about to close he turned to the woman next to him and said, "What would you say to a little oral activity?" "That all depends," she replied. "Your face or mine?"

Why did the former porn star get fired from his job as a gas station attendant?  
Whenever a tank was almost full, he would pull out the nozzle and spray gas all over the car.

Our Unabashed Dictionary defines alimony as the screwing you get for the screwing you got.





# The PLAYBOY Interview

# ROBERT DOWNEY JR

• MICHAEL FLEMING •

A candid conversation with one of Hollywood's best actors about becoming a superhero, surviving his past and why he has the confidence to never sing again

If you were to write a script about a guy who had it all, lost it all and then redeemed himself in a miraculous fashion, you could do no better than to steal from the bio of Robert Downey Jr.

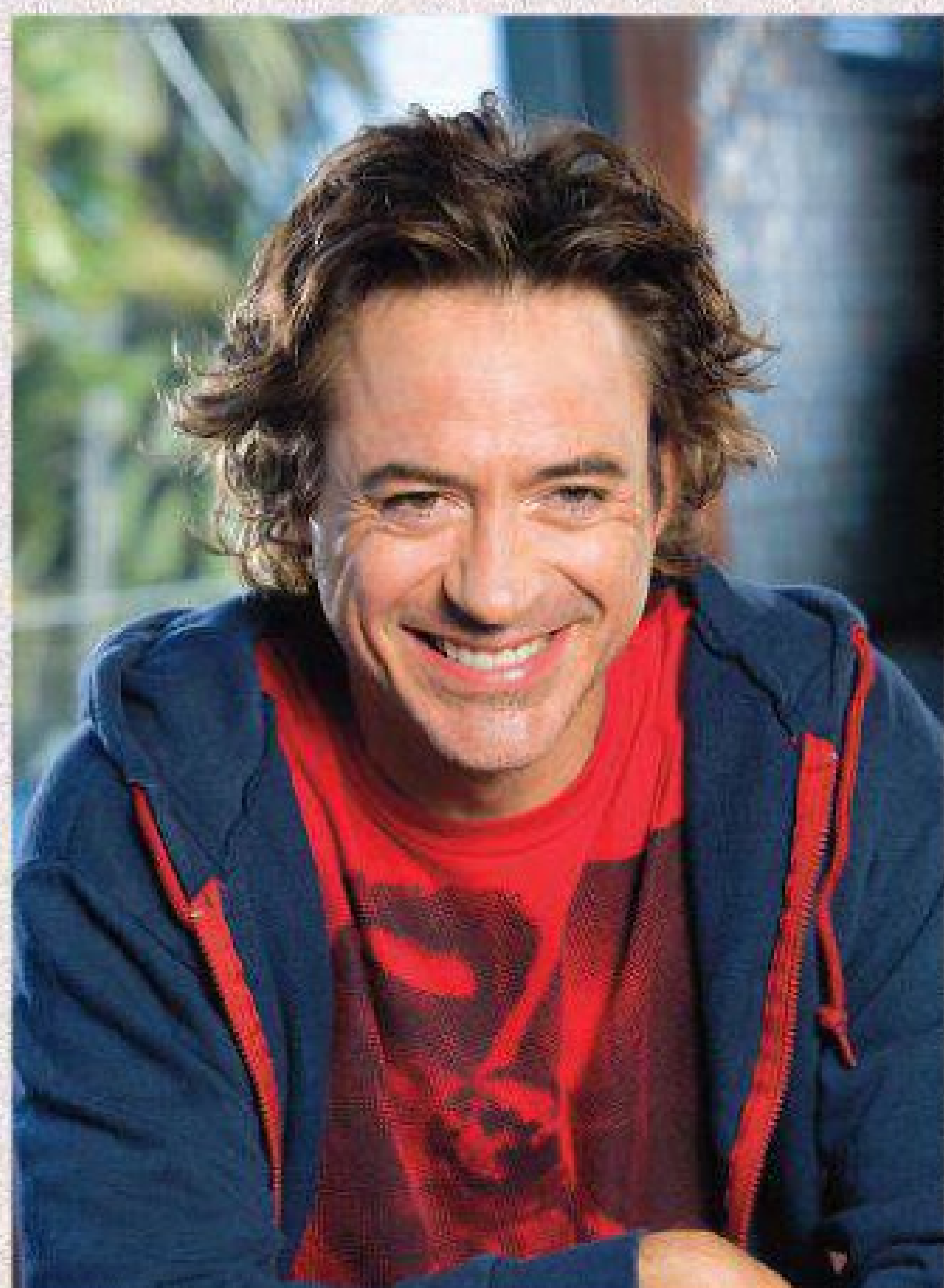
Back in the late 1980s and early 1990s it was hard to find an actor who showed more promise or talent. Films such as *Less Than Zero*, *Chaplin* and *Natural Born Killers* established him as a star on the rise; he was even nominated for a best actor Oscar for *Chaplin*, in 1993. While he continued to work, his performances got less coverage than his drug problems. He was in and out of rehab, gave brutally honest self-incriminating interviews (including one to *PLAYBOY* in 1997), was arrested on various drug, gun and trespassing charges and spent a year in prison. He became the poster child for a misspent life.

But Downey was still young. It took him five years to get clean and slightly longer to rebuild his promising career. Things started turning around with a little-seen film called *The Singing Detective* (Mel Gibson famously posted a personal bond for the uninsurable actor), but to

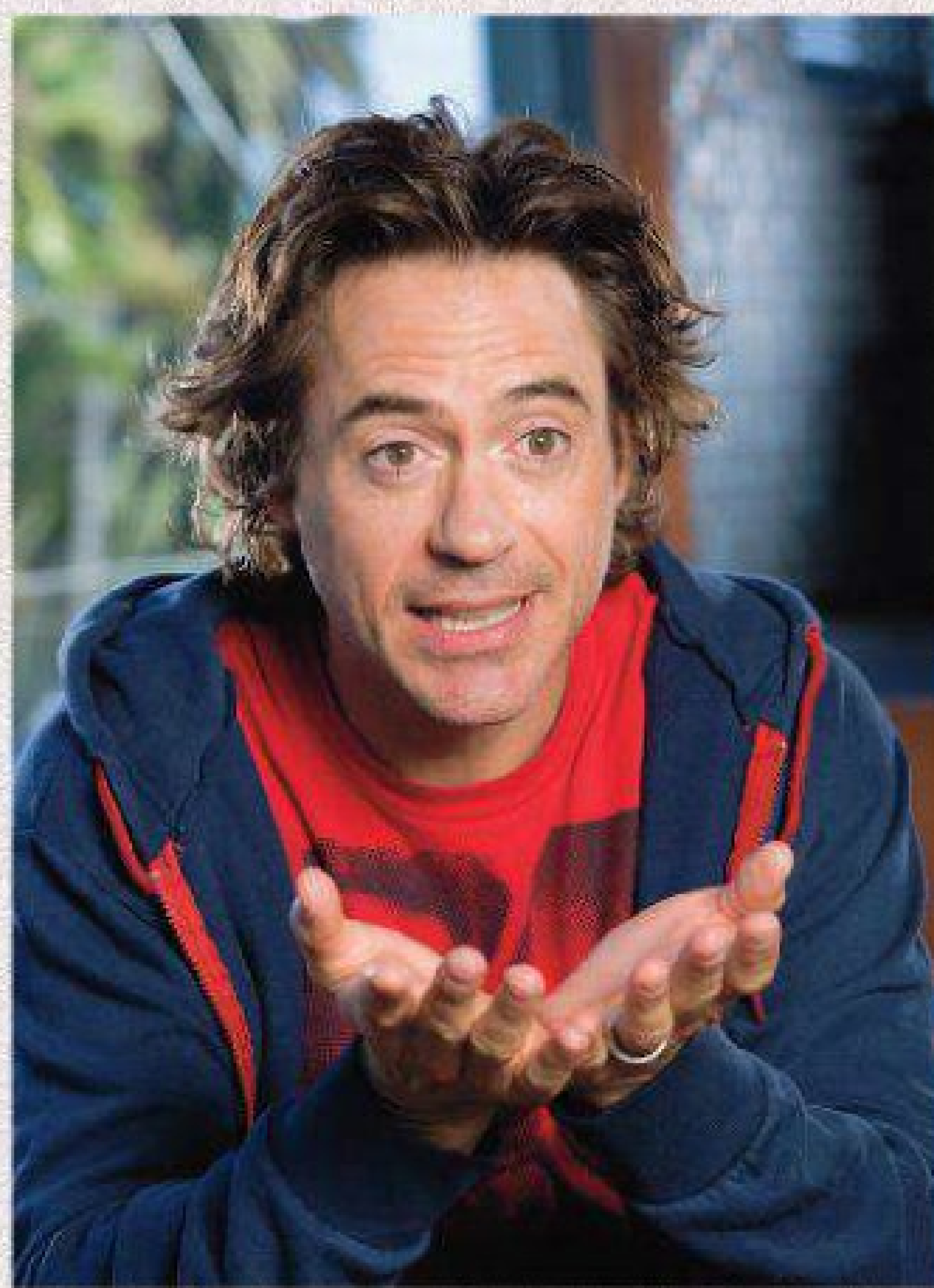
show he was truly back, Downey needed a blockbuster. He landed three: *Iron Man*, *Sherlock Holmes* and *Tropic Thunder*, which earned him another Oscar nomination. Suddenly Downey found himself in the company of such bankable stars as Will Smith, Brad Pitt, Johnny Depp and Leonardo DiCaprio. Of course, they had achieved success while young. When Downey broke through in *Iron Man* he was 43 and had already made 57 films. It's a trajectory no other actor can match.

Now 45, Downey is filming a sequel to *Sherlock Holmes* and has started a production company called Team Downey with his wife, Susan. Sure, the name is corny, but it fits them. A seasoned film executive who became involved with Downey during his dark days while filming *Gothika* and *Kiss Kiss Bang Bang*, Susan was integral to his personal and professional resurgence. They married in 2005—Billy Joel and Sting sang at the wedding—and she produces all his films.

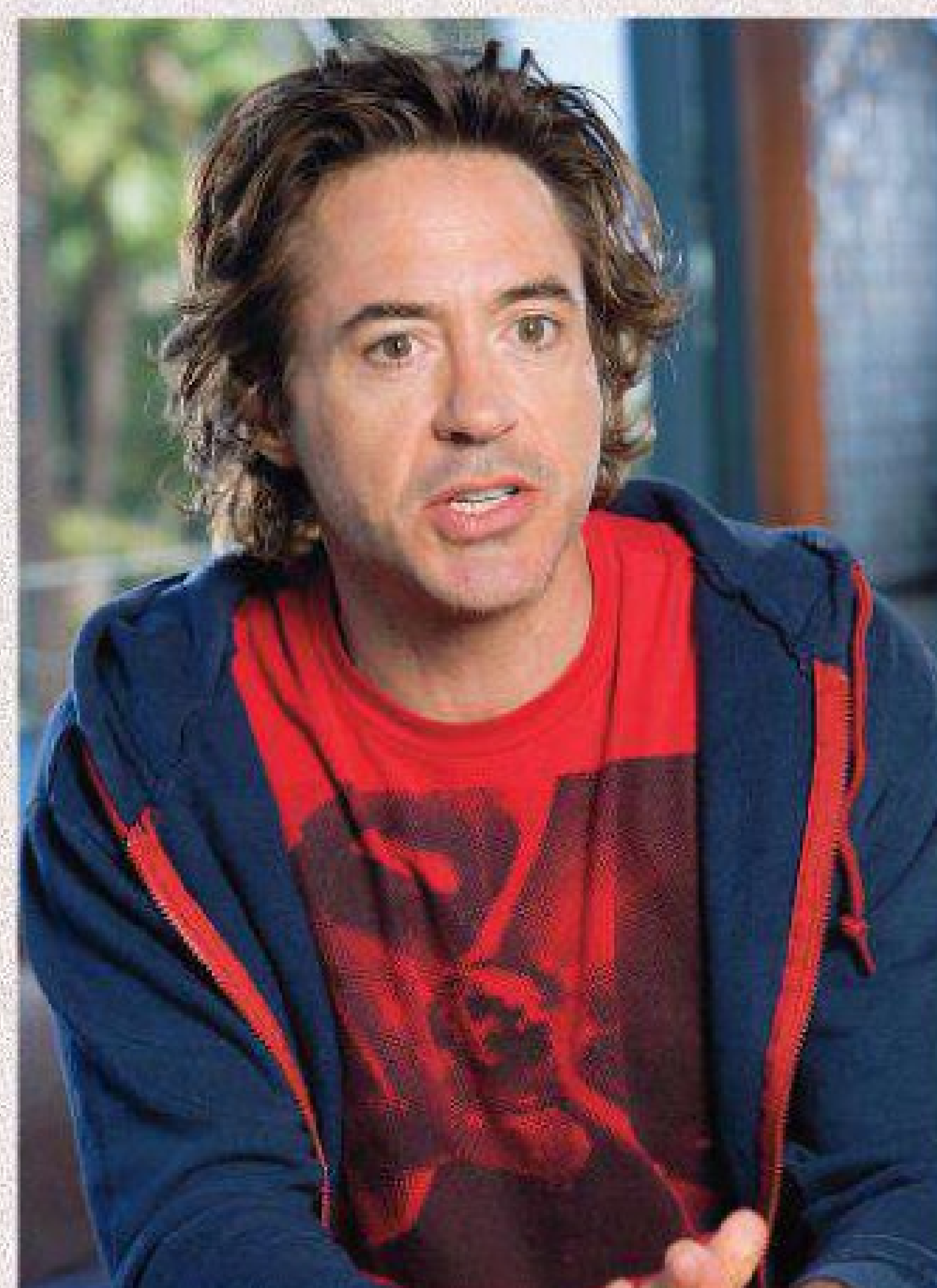
Downey next stars in *Due Date*, a raucous road-trip film with the star (Zach Galifianakis) and director (Todd



*"Not having done drugs for literally five or six years is a lifetime. I think of myself as someone who has no desire, use for or conscious memory of that life. And yet I don't shut the door on it, and I don't pretend it didn't happen."*



*"To me, here's the only thing: You take responsibility, whether you're outraged by the results or not, that you participate in and create what you're experiencing. It's the people who stay stuck who think, I'm a victim."*



*"A lot of my peers who have led pretty healthy lives have been dealing with some serious health problems the past couple of years. I put myself at risk for a bunch of years and find I'm perfectly healthy."*



Phillips) of *The Hangover*. Downey plays an uptight architect who rushes home for the birth of his first child. Circumstances leave him in a car driven by a wannabe actor (Galifianakis) with a spectacular lack of self-awareness and a masturbating dog.

"Actors who've been around bring baggage that leaves the audience with their arms folded, saying, 'Show me,'" Phillips says. "Robert has baggage, but the audience has always greeted him with open arms. He'd been this simmering talent, and during that period he gained the respect of so many of us just waiting for an *Iron Man* or a *Tropic Thunder* to see it fully realized. I love this guy

more than any actor I've ever worked with. He made me a better director, and he is literally the greatest talent I've ever come across."

We sent Michael Fleming to Team Downey's offices in Venice, California just before Downey jetted to London. Fleming reports: "Downey has changed a lot since I first interviewed him in 1997. He doesn't shy from the past but won't let you dwell on what is becoming a footnote in a remarkable life. Unchanged are his electric wit and sense of mischief. We started in the bright afternoon sun so Downey could get a tan to show off on the *Sherlock Holmes 2* set."

**PLAYBOY:** Aren't movie stars supposed to stay out of the sun to protect their skin?

**DOWNEY:** I like having some color before I go to London so I can hear Guy Ritchie say, "You cock. What are you getting a fucking tan for? This is *Sherlock Holmes*." You get ready to shoot a fall film during the height of the summer. What am I supposed to do, wear a hat?

**PLAYBOY:** You've always been known for being independent. The last time we interviewed you for *PLAYBOY* was 1997, when you were making *U.S. Marshals*. At the time you told spectacularly honest stories about what it was like to be a great actor with a drug problem. You talked about an audition with director Mike Figgis for which you showed up barefoot and carrying a gun.

**DOWNEY:** Oh yeah.

**PLAYBOY:** And the futility of people like Sean Penn and Jodie Foster trying to fix you, and getting down to a spiderlike 138 pounds.

**DOWNEY:** That was my fighting weight.

**PLAYBOY:** And how you had a divining rod that could lead you to drugs in a strange city and have you back in your hotel room in 45 minutes. Having come so far, how much can you relate to the guy who gave that interview back in 1997?

**DOWNEY:** Entirely. Absolutely and entirely. But sometimes it's necessary to compartmentalize the different stages of your evolution, both personally and objectively, for the people you have to love and tolerate. And one of those people, for me, is me. I have a very strong sense of that messed-up kid, that devoted theater actor, that ne'er-do-well 20-something nihilistic androgyne and that late-20s married guy with a little kid, lost, lost in narcotics—all as aspects of things I don't regret and am happy to keep a

door open on. More than anything I have this sense that I'm a veteran of a war that is difficult to discuss with people who haven't been there. I feel for the kind of zeitgeist diagnoses that are being applied to certain of my peers lately, and I think it's unconscionable.

**PLAYBOY:** You mean like the rush to judge Mel Gibson based on his voice-mail messages?

**DOWNEY:** I'll speak much more generally. If I'm friends with somebody now, I don't talk about them for public consumption. But remember, I was in jail, and I don't want to discredit the doctor, but somebody just decided I had some disease in my brain. Sight unseen they needed to publish it and capitalize on this "truth." More power to them, misguided or not. But the real problem is this: When you're in the hood, don't be alarmed by gunfire. That's as simple as I can put it. For me, the hood was northern Malibu and my own isolation and dependency therein. That's the only thing I really know now, and I don't think about it. But I learned it in such a ghastly way. Yes, I need refresher courses of an educational variety, but I don't ever need to revisit the obvious.

**PLAYBOY:** How does it play back in your head?

**DOWNEY:** Well, it plays back in my head now as part of a miraculous success story—a success story of the spirit much more than anything else. So it's funny to me when the metric by which people say I've changed has to do with things that are of no real import. The context of the conversation is sullied before I can even respond.

**PLAYBOY:** Are you talking about how you're different from the guy in that interview?

**DOWNEY:** No. Here's what I'm saying: People say to me, "Look how you've changed. Look at this building you're in." And by the way, I do the same

thing; I misinterpret things in the same way that I'm reactive to—or nonreactive to but very aware of. Those people are completely missing the target, and it's no mystery at all. I mean, shit, some people living in their trucks within a hundred yards of where we sit are happy and content but definitely have a mental illness and unrealistic desires based on things that are physically not true. And then there are people who are having a great summer and whose personal stock is up in a variety of enterprises who should pump the brakes, close down for repairs and allow themselves to be reinvented by the truth of what we're really doing here.

**PLAYBOY:** What was the Robert Downey Jr. we interviewed in 1997 lacking?

**DOWNEY:** Nothing. Honestly, I don't have a judgment on it. I just see somebody who's like, "Oh God, life is really hard," and this is how you're coping, and it doesn't work. You are not consciously aware of what you will have to unconsciously invite so you can go to the next place. It's a molting stage, and I think some of it is just an exploded view of that phase of development in human beings or that phase of development in human beings who are underdeveloped at that stage.

**PLAYBOY:** Did that guy ever imagine the Robert Downey Jr. who exists in 2010?

**DOWNEY:** Well, it always comes down to what you believe. It's also odd and just an exercise in forced duality to say I'd rather be here than there and this was better and that wasn't. It's important to say, "Hey, man, we're here now, and it's pretty good," to just whisper through the dimensions and say, "Hey, you're going to be all right."

**PLAYBOY:** Early on in *Due Date*, when your character gets shot with a rubber bullet, he sits down and says, "I've never done drugs in my life." When



**Q** you first saw that line, did it make you uncomfortable?

**DOWNEY:** The funny thing is, it didn't. Except for times when I'm asked to remind myself and everyone else of it, what I notice is that it doesn't even come up. No one on the set said, "Isn't it funny that you're saying that?" Nobody said that because I was so in character while I was saying it and because I was probably the cleanest person within 50 miles. Not having done drugs for literally five or six years is a lifetime. I think of myself as someone who has no desire, use for or even, strangely, conscious memory of that life. And yet I don't shut the door on it, and I don't pretend it didn't happen. Back then I had more religious devotion to unhealthy and self-destructive things than I had to an honest day's work. In that context I was happy to give anybody who needed it an honest day's work, as long as when that day was over I could get back to my real job. And that's all.

**PLAYBOY:** One of the things you said in our interview is that, after Chaplin, you chose projects by doing little more than looking at the cover page, finding out who was directing and then saying yes.

**DOWNEY:** Whether I liked it or not, I always said yes? [laughs]

**PLAYBOY:** You didn't give projects the scrutiny you do now. Would the wonderful acting opportunities you've had lately have happened if you had been more disciplined then?

**DOWNEY:** I don't know. It's hard because it's a hypothesis within an alternate universe. You know what I mean?

**PLAYBOY:** Sure. Now you're developing your own films. Do you have more discipline?

**DOWNEY:** In general, passivity is a big fucking problem for me. Are you absolutely satisfied being an actor for hire? I stopped being satisfied being an actor for hire before we did this the last time.

**PLAYBOY:** Why?

**DOWNEY:** It's just the way I was raised, the things I saw happen creatively in my dad's work, the way I saw my mom being able to express herself as an actress in an almost underground environment. There was a director, there was an idea, there was innovation, there was a great sense of excitement and fun. And in that way *Due Date* for me was such a return to a felt sense of community with a small, like-minded group of peers. To me it was like big-budget summer stock.

**PLAYBOY:** Your father, Robert Downey

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Sr., made several well-regarded independent films—except they were called underground then. His work was often compared to jazz improvisation. How much of that takes place on a big studio film like *Due Date*?

**DOWNEY:** It happened with this film more than with any indie I've ever done. But that's specific to a certain type of team doing a certain type of movie with a certain type of studio at a certain point in their careers.

**PLAYBOY:** By a certain point in their careers, you're talking about people who have had some big box office success.

**DOWNEY:** Why should one have to precede the other? Like you can't do what you need to do until you've demonstrated you can do what they would like you to do but don't necessarily expect because it doesn't happen very often? Again, that's the problem with passivity, with waiting for a time when you'll be able to take care of yourself. That's ass-backward, not having enough influence or leverage to give yourself some space and settling for copping a resentment and stuffing it every day.

**PLAYBOY:** You're the newcomer in *Due Date*. Director Todd Phillips and Zach Galifianakis did *The Hangover* together. Do you feel as though you're crashing an existing relationship?

**DOWNEY:** My confidence level lately has been so high that I'm happy to go with people who have a preexisting relationship and who just experienced something together that was unimaginably successful, enjoyable, smart and a little bit different.

**PLAYBOY:** What puts you in that confident place?

**DOWNEY:** My age and my recent set of experiences, which have left me feeling I'm in the zone. This is just the sweet spot of my career and my life so far, and strangely, they've come at the same time.

**PLAYBOY:** When did that confidence start?

**DOWNEY:** When Joel Silver put Shane Black, Val Kilmer and me together, with the missus producing, on a little

picture called *Kiss Kiss Bang Bang*. It was a practically perfect script, and we played with it a little bit and made some improvements. I liked the way it felt. My energy was even. Val and I synced nicely, and Shane did a great job directing.

**PLAYBOY:** Was the film successful?

**DOWNEY:** It was a movie that didn't know how to find its audience. It wasn't the audience's or the studio's fault. The movie was—

**PLAYBOY:** A feathered fish?

**DOWNEY:** That's exactly what they called it. I'd almost forgotten that because it's been so long since I've had feathered fish. After that, working with David Fincher, Jake Gyllenhaal and Mark Ruffalo on *Zodiac* was just a very classy gig. And then things started adding up. I screen-tested for *Iron Man*, and the morning Jon Favreau called and told me I'd gotten the gig...I still get all choked up just remembering. It was such an invitation to this cornucopia of possibilities. And it all happened.

**PLAYBOY:** *Tropic Thunder* would have been a real risk for any actor. When you play an actor delusional enough to think he can method act his way into becoming a black man, don't you worry about politically correct backlash?

**DOWNEY:** There was Ben Stiller, who to me is the closest living thing to Chaplin we have today as an actor and a director. He's devoted to detail but also loves the feeling of a loose fish in his hand. I also thought about my dad's film *Putney Swope* and how that was about a creative black man who, only by accident in 1968, finds himself in a position of true influence and power. And then I thought about all the years following that and how many black entertainers, more so than even my own pigmented brethren, had influenced me. I thought about struggle, and then I thought about my own struggle. And without imagining I could draw any realistic parallels, I decided to invest myself in it. I just had all these references guiding me and [laughs]—you know, forget everything I just said. My heart was in the right place, and when the character's voice



happened, I could do no wrong. That has happened only one other time, and it was with my character in *Natural Born Killers*, who interestingly enough was another Australian.

**PLAYBOY:** You were nominated for an Oscar for your role in *Tropic Thunder*. How did you handle that Oscar night compared with when you were nominated for Chaplin?

**DOWNEY:** I don't remember how I handled anything when I was 26, honestly. There are reports; maybe they're accurate.

**PLAYBOY:** What were the reports?

**DOWNEY:** Who knows? That I wore platform shoes and a Little Shop of Horrors necktie. Well, those aren't reports; those are facts, and I'm not saying that what I wore represents how I handled it. The point is, I don't think *Tropic Thunder* was about me or even about what I did. Maybe some courage was involved. I believe it was just an interesting year. It was all a cresting wave of what seemed like a major turning point in American culture, and I was peripherally involved in some small way.

**PLAYBOY:** Explain.

**DOWNEY:** I remember a *Rolling Stone* article making the connection between my role being embraced as not offensive and the possibility of a black president.

**PLAYBOY:** Your character in *Tropic Thunder* paved the way for Barack Obama's election?

**DOWNEY:** I don't want to say I was directly responsible. [laughs] I'll leave that for the historians. But do you think I could at least get a half-assed tour of the Oval Office as a result?

**PLAYBOY:** All this was made possible by *Iron Man*, a role you were forced to fight for.

**DOWNEY:** I just felt, Shit, this could be the thing for me. Why not me?

**PLAYBOY:** Who was against the idea?

**DOWNEY:** Everybody. I've been on both sides of casting. When you're on the actor's side, it's all very personal. When you're on the studio or producer's side, it's this free-flowing array of opinions, intuitions, previous experiences or recent accomplishments. Or Jimmy the Greek bets on where you're at: Are you poised for your big Aqueduct purse run, or are you two sitcoms away from the glue factory? Probably the person resisting it the longest was me. I resisted being open to thinking of myself in that framework, that I could do the superhero thing. But maybe I could look like I was six feet tall, in the right boots. I could get my arms a little bigger and not move my face so much

when I talked. I could be in a jeep with a bunch of military guys cracking jokes and then not look like a bitch when the bomb goes off. I might even look like the kind of guy who designs those big bombs. By the way, that's more likely me. He's not a hero in the beginning and has no intention of becoming a hero. He's injured by his own creations. I just love that. I was three when Stan Lee created this character.

Let me grab some Nicorette gum. [reaches into a black plastic case filled with bottled water, gum and vitamin supplements]

**PLAYBOY:** Is that stuff working for you?

**DOWNEY:** Oh, it's so good, dude. Cigarettes were just killing me.

**PLAYBOY:** How long has it been since you quit?

**DOWNEY:** Aside from a week in Italy, a year and a half.

**PLAYBOY:** Did everybody smoke there?

**DOWNEY:** Yeah. I almost didn't, and then I was like, This is crazy. Are you kidding me? But I think next time I can handle Europe. What was I talking about?

**PLAYBOY:** *Iron Man* and Stan Lee.

**DOWNEY:** Oh yeah. I feel connected to Stan Lee on some trippy level in that I was wearing nappies when he was creating this character who went through all these transitions and was for years considered a second-tier superhero. By the way, if he had been considered anything else, the movie would have already been made. And so every single thing about it was right.

**PLAYBOY:** What won you that role?

**DOWNEY:** I prepared for the screen test so feverishly that I literally made it impossible for anybody to do a better job. I had never worked on something that way before; I was so familiar with six or nine pages of dialogue, I had thought of every possible scenario. At a certain point during the screen test I was so overwhelmed with anxiety about the opportunity that I almost passed out. I watched it later, and that moment came, fluttered and wasn't even noticeable. But to me it was this stretched-out moment of what keeps people from doing theater for 30 years—just an unadulterated fear of failure.

**PLAYBOY:** Yet you made it work.

**DOWNEY:** Yeah. And I had prepped myself to the point where I was able to tumble over in that wave and not be dashed by it. I see that all the time. People think they're ready for something; they're prepared, they've checked their equipment, and then

the first thing goes wrong on the landing craft and they're just dead in the water—boom, you're done. You're floating up on the beach.

**PLAYBOY:** When you got that job, was it one of the greatest moments in your life?

**DOWNEY:** Definitely not the greatest moment in my life. It was a singular moment in my professional life, and I was right where I belonged. I was training with my si-fu at the L.A. Wing Chun Kung Fu Academy. Once you get on the mat, you're not supposed to get off. My assistant Jimmy came in and said that he didn't mean to interrupt but I had a phone call. The si-fu, this one time and never since, said, "Why don't you take five minutes, grab a drink if you need it, and if you need to take that phone call, feel free."

**PLAYBOY:** How often do you do kung fu, and what does it bring you?

**DOWNEY:** I was there this morning. I've been doing it for seven or eight years, maybe longer. I recently doubled up my sessions to three hours three times a week, and I'm not exhausted by it. It's so funny because I thought, Shit, I have to get in shape for *Sherlock Holmes*. I realized the reason I'm not changing much with the stepped-up workouts is because I've been in shape for five years. Because of my training, my conditioning is as good as it can be, and that's why I'm not noticing dramatic changes even though I've been on a cleanse diet and all this other shit.

**PLAYBOY:** What's the cleanse diet?

**DOWNEY:** Dr. Alejandro Junger has a program called Clean. You get a shake, eat some lunch, and that's about it. I'm not on it today because I did it for a week that ended yesterday, and then I'm starting it again tomorrow. I needed a day.

**PLAYBOY:** Why are you so devoted?

**DOWNEY:** [Laughs] Well, any explanation I give now will only be relative to what I think I know. Until you've had your ass handed to you enough on any point.... It's asking yourself, Why am I putting on this weight? Oh, it's stress weight. No, for me it's what I believe about myself. When we were done with *Tropic Thunder*, my missus said, "You have to go on a diet right now. No offense, Downey, but you're fat...for you. Well, for anybody." I was like, "But I feel great!" Then there's that whole thing where I'm like, Can I just give myself a break? Does it matter if I'm a specimen? It's all about how I think I need to be perceived. But to answer the thing about discipline: Discipline for me is about respect. It's not even about self-respect; it's about respect for life



and all it offers. And not indulging. I have happily reconsidered my position on a bunch of things I didn't want on my "no" list despite all evidence that I couldn't handle them. At the end of the day, anything I think I'm sacrificing I'm just giving up because it makes me feel better.

**PLAYBOY:** How close are you to a black belt?

**DOWNEY:** I will be testing for brown belt next. There was a time when I was focused on the gradings: The gradings were going too fast for me to prepare and give a good showing, or the gradings were going too slowly because I felt I should be at a higher sash level. When I stopped concerning myself with the color I was wearing around my waist and got down to addressing the same three or five mistakes I was continually making at every level, that's when I shot forward. If that's a metaphor for anything else, then great.

**PLAYBOY:** What part of this activity do you value most?

**DOWNEY:** The apprenticeship. I have an instructor. He is my teacher and will remain my teacher until one of us is no longer here. To me it's not devotion; it's a decision. And by the way, it ceases to be about the result, which is self-defense and formidability and people intuitively not getting in your space. To me, it is about being vigilant about the decision I made.

**PLAYBOY:** Your wife produces your movies and works alongside you as partner in your production company. What's the challenge of mixing business and marriage?

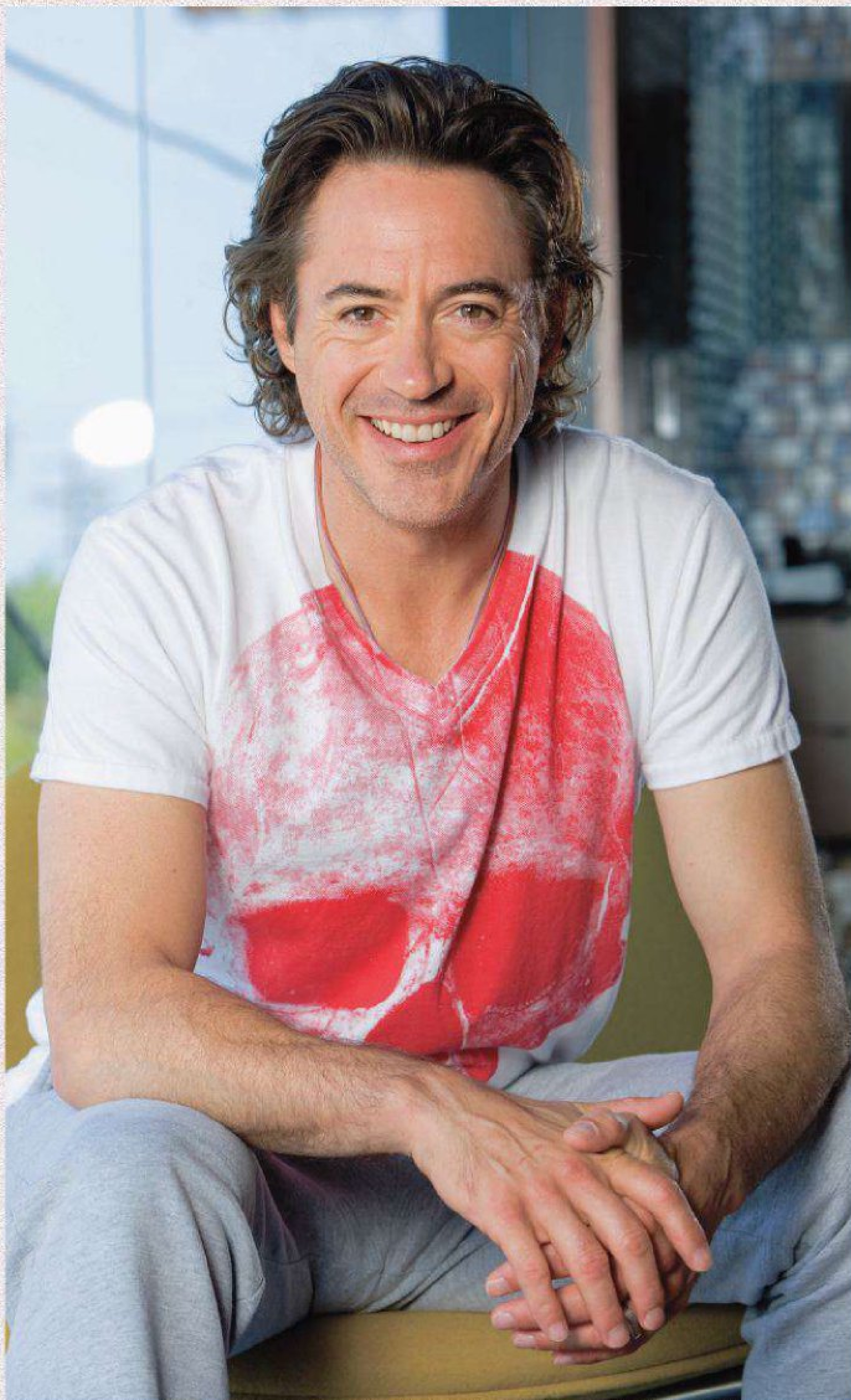
**DOWNEY:** It's reminding yourself and your partner, through experiences or quietude, that you genuinely prefer their company to their absence, and then having a healthy amount of intentional separation within your unity. The other thing—and studies have been done on this—you need a certain ratio of positives to every stressful incident with each other. For every pointless spat we have, we need to have five moments of genuine connection and appreciation. These statistics apply to us. The physics of being in proximity, being cell mates and lifers together, just comes down to continually respecting each other. Sometimes I don't want that and just want to be respected, to be heard. I don't want to be managed; I want her to follow my directives. And it's never gonna be that way—except when it is, and it's great when it is.

**PLAYBOY:** How often does that happen?

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**DOWNEY:** It happened last night, for a second.

**PLAYBOY:** You mentioned you want to have kids. You have a son, Indio, who's now a teenager. Do you want a boy or a girl?

**DOWNEY:** I think we should probably try to have a girl because I don't want another male entity to have to compete; I don't want Indio to feel there's another boy in my life. But I don't know what we'd have to do. Do we have to put it in a spoon and hang upside-down? Of course that's wrong, and I think, Wait a minute, I don't get to make that decision. It's the stupidest conversation ever because it's like saying "Red or black?" You have a 50 percent chance of being right and a 50 percent chance of being wrong. I think we're going to have a girl.

**PLAYBOY:** How soon? That's within your control.

**DOWNEY:** I think I will be wrist-deep in doo-doo within 18 months. I'm calling it, right here.

**PLAYBOY:** What excites you about going through fatherhood again?

**DOWNEY:** Well, let me think. What is the upside? The upside is doing what you're supposed to do, what feels righteous. And that is another 18 years, legally, of thankless blood, sweat and tears.

**PLAYBOY:** One of your goals is directing. Is that something in your blood?

**DOWNEY:** I guess so. Dad's shadow is kind of still there. I'm sure that's part of some metamorphosis.

**PLAYBOY:** How much of a kick is your dad getting out of your success?

**DOWNEY:** It's all relative. I'd wanted to meet Paul Thomas Anderson for some time. Dad was coming out here, taking the train because he doesn't fly. I said, "What are you gonna do?" He goes, "Ah, I'm gonna go to a Dodgers game with PTA, and then we'll be...." I said, "What?" He said, "You guys should meet." [laughs] So I got to go to dinner with those guys.

**PLAYBOY:** When do you think you'll direct?

**DOWNEY:** In three years.

**PLAYBOY:** Your career really took off with Iron Man, Tropic Thunder and

Sherlock Holmes. Now you're starting another exhausting round of big projects.

**DOWNEY:** I'm doing Sherlock 2 and then Gravity and then The Avengers. I promised myself I wouldn't do this again, but Gravity is a short schedule. And as Noël Coward said, work is more fun than fun.

**PLAYBOY:** Do you feel that way?

**DOWNEY:** I feel what's fun about not working is reconnecting with who I really am. Or being up in Big Sur with the missus, renting some cheap bikes, taking a 17-mile drive and going to some New Age sandwich shop and getting watercolors and doing a couple of sketches. Left to my own devices, I'm happy to be in any of these modes.

**PLAYBOY:** Jamie Foxx told -PLAYBOY that a key to Tom Cruise and Will Smith staying on top is that they will strive to beat you in everything. They are ferociously competitive. Do you have that?

**DOWNEY:** I'm my own version of that. I feel as though I was coughed out of the whale's mouth into this life. If I had a strategy, I'd dare anybody not to laugh or puke at the strategy I came up with.

**PLAYBOY:** Good point.

**DOWNEY:** Yeah, and I like that. But I'm not a guy who has to destroy you at Ping-Pong or I can't eat. My realm, my Octagon, is what we're shooting, and my confidence is in what happens between "Action" and "Cut." But if you've had a life as difficult as anyone's and your most stressful times had nothing to do with being powdered for your fucking close-up, then the reality of a day spent on a relatively safe film set is not daunting at all.

**PLAYBOY:** What do you worry most about?

**DOWNEY:** I've noticed that worrying is like praying for what you don't want to happen. I don't worry, but I observe where my mind tends to go. I have such an overwhelming sense that if you're in the right state of heart, which I have been for a little while, the next right thing appears to you.

**PLAYBOY:** Do you believe in fate? Was this a road you had to travel to be where you are now?

**DOWNEY:** I don't necessarily believe

I'm meant to be anywhere, but I know there are a lot of probabilities. Some of the probabilities that seem the least probable are actually where I'm heading. A lot of my peers who have led pretty healthy lives have been dealing with some serious health problems the past couple of years. I put myself at risk for a bunch of years and find I'm perfectly healthy. I also know that some of my pals have led contented lives for the better part of the past quarter century and I have known relative happiness—and by happiness I mean having a sense of peace and not just waiting for the other shoe to drop—for only five or six years.

**PLAYBOY:** What's the best thing about getting older?

**DOWNEY:** I think there's something honorable about it. I'm trying to think exactly where it happened—maybe on Iron Man 2. Being around youngsters, guys and gals under 30, and suddenly realizing that, to them, you're part of the old guard. My story is a fucking period piece to them. Even when I was in a really bad way I always imagined being 75 years old and talking smack to some future industry upstarts. It was a fantasy then.

**PLAYBOY:** What's your view of the newest wave of reality-TV stars such as the Situation, Snooki and Kim Kardashian—people who are famous for living lives on-screen?

**DOWNEY:** It means what it's always meant, that everybody is famous somewhere for something. I wouldn't have made it if I'd been born in 1975 or 1985 instead of 1965.

**PLAYBOY:** Why?

**DOWNEY:** Because the feedback loop is so intense that I would have combusted in some way. If I had to pick a decade or two to be a complete dope-smoking fucking coke freak—not that I'm saying there was ever a good decade to do that. And honestly, because we've been talking about this back and forth a lot, in the context of right here now, I look back on it and think, Jesus, did I have a choice? I guess I always did. Why couldn't I see until I could see? If there's a reason for that, I haven't figured it out entirely. But the nice thing is, I'm not in a hurry. I almost feel that's an



**“Looking back I think, Oh my God, I could have been done. I could have been so fried and so bad off and, oh my God, such a cautionary tale. [laughs] And I still could be.”**

end-of-the-line answer to learn. But it's just so trippy, dude. I mean, just think about when we did that last interview. You said 1997?

**PLAYBOY:** Yes, 1997.

**DOWNEY:** That's nearly two seven-year cycles ago. Wow.

**PLAYBOY:** Back then you liked to spend money. Now that you make real money, what does it mean to you? What is the best thing about having money now?

**DOWNEY:** Well, I have a pretty big family. And there's a lot of experience-is-everything, a bit of a gypsy-grifter thing in my DNA for some reason. Let's say Chaplin had come out and I'd busted all the right moves, gotten on Antabuse or something, and done the stuff I'm doing now back then. I guarantee you I'd have a hangar filled with vintage this and that and maybe even a bronze of myself—flagrant artifacts of success, a real squander-fest. Now a splurge to me is getting a bunch of T-shirts or sneakers. And I still look at the prices, because I think everything is ridiculous.

**PLAYBOY:** Would you have been able to handle this success back then?

**DOWNEY:** No. Now I'm scared of the right things.

**PLAYBOY:** What are you scared of?

**DOWNEY:** Infidelity. Losing my sense of true humility. Looking back I think, Oh my God, I could have been done. I could have been so fried and so bad off and, oh my God, such a cautionary tale. [laughs] And I still could be. By fear of infidelity I mean I have a passion for how delicate it is to maintain things that are really pure. And I don't find myself tempted because I don't put myself on a frequency that temptation likes to go. I keep myself in overtly-pheromone-free interactions with all women, except my wife. She deserves it.

**PLAYBOY:** You pulled yourself out of a nosedive and showed it's possible in a time when every misdeed is covered with harsh immediacy. Is the glare too harsh?

**DOWNEY:** Nope, I don't think so. Comparatively speaking, in a semi-democracy in the 21st century, it's not

that big a deal. It's a big deal if you're the one in the barrel. But why did you put yourself in a position to be in the barrel? What did you expect? Some people are not made of stuff hard enough to withstand the realities of their position.

**PLAYBOY:** People have to take responsibility for themselves?

**DOWNEY:** But they're creating it. Everyone's creating their own stuff. To me, here's the only thing: You take responsibility, whether you're outraged by the results or not, that you in some way participate in and create what you're experiencing. It's people who stay stuck—and I relate to this because it's a card I'm happy to play when I'm tired or overwrought—who think, I'm a victim; I'm being victimized! You're out of line! Can you believe this? I didn't do anything wrong! Well, actually you did.

**PLAYBOY:** Do you accept your own culpability?

**DOWNEY:** I couldn't believe it took so long. But again, when it's going down, when the bust is on, there's never a good time to have your house raided. You just think, Man, all those times I was stuck at the window in my underwear, sweating mortar shells and thinking the cops were coming, and they never came. I would think back on those other thousand times and relax. And then they came. Which is why I find myself fascinated with shows like *Bad Girls* and *Jerseylicious*, and also *Inside American Jail* and *Lockup*. The best one's in the U.K.; I watch it when I'm over there doing *Sherlock*. It's called *Banged Up Abroad*, which means “locked up.” *Locked Up Abroad* is always fun.

**PLAYBOY:** What intrigues you about prison shows?

**DOWNEY:** First of all, I enjoy reenactments that aren't done so well that I'm buying it. That creates a certain aesthetic distance. Then I like interviews with someone having some catharsis. It always starts with “I kind of had a feeling I shouldn't be doing this.” [laughs] It's never “I strapped the hashish around my midsection just knowing it was all gonna pan out for

me.” And they never say on *Locked Up Abroad*, “This was the first time I ever tried this.” They just describe the time they got busted. I guess what I'm trying to say is, I am part of a culture that is equally fascinated, disgusted and soothed by the socialization of the random suffering of others.

**PLAYBOY:** You recorded an album in 2004 and went on Oprah to promote it. Was it what you hoped it would be?

**DOWNEY:** No, it wasn't. As a matter of fact, Trudie Styler was cleaning out one of her and Sting's apartments when they were moving from one place into another, and she found a cassette tape of demos I'd somehow forcibly extended to them in 1988 or 1989. I think I even remember the moment. I'd also enclosed a scarab that I thought Sting and I would instantly have a transmutation with because of Synchronicity, his album that I understood better than anyone else. I listened to the demos again and became infatuated with them because they have moments that to me show, yes, I was musically inspired. And then the rest is gobbledygook, like the kind of people who come up to me when I'm going to *Good Morning America* and thrust their DVD in my hand. Like I was that guy.

**PLAYBOY:** How many rounds would you last on *American Idol*?

**DOWNEY:** Oh, I'd take it.

**PLAYBOY:** All the way?

**DOWNEY:** You know what? I haven't seen it enough to know that. Some of these kids can belt the songs. For me, the shit has come to this, and here's one of the great things about getting older: I'm confident enough in myself as a singer to never go out of my way to do it again. [laughs]





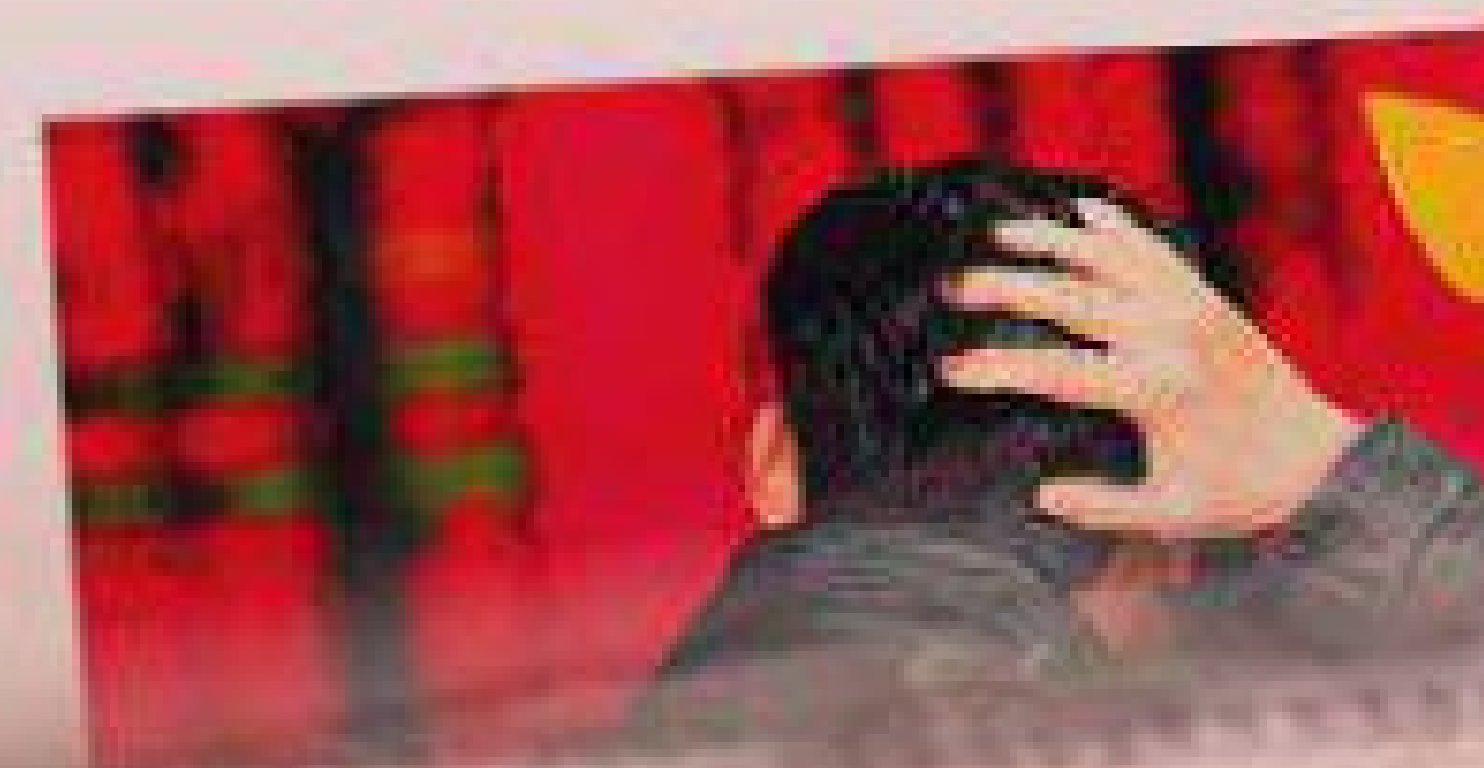
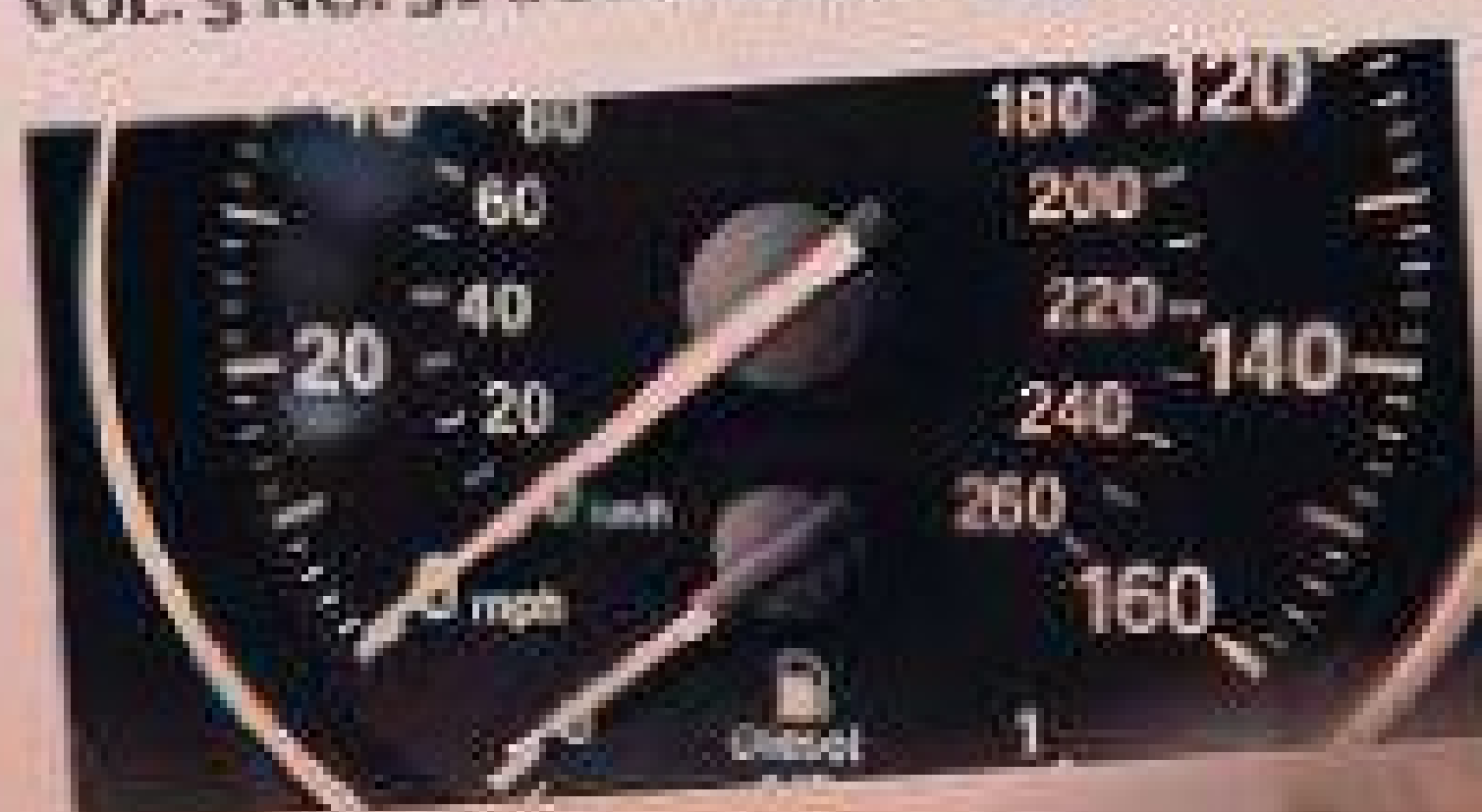


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# Love at the Sixth Hour

*By: Maria Reyes*

12:00 p.m.

## ESTEBAN

When they were younger, he used to watch her as she sat in the corner of her dilapidated classroom poring over their school's few, mildewed books. She was the quintessential honor student, overachiever, daughter of one of the washerwomen of one of the province's elite families. She was the daughter of an unknown - or not so unknown - man who had given his daughter his white skin and pale eyes. All the girls envied her and all the men waited for her to grow into a woman's body.

He watched over her, with his characteristic glare and clenched fist. He would walk her home every day. This he did with her and her mother's consent, of course. She appreciated this, and he knew it. She did not lack in expressing appreciation to the tall, strong, dark-eyed boy whom the village girls all but chased down the streets.

But what he remembered now was the sweet scent that was distinctly hers. He remembered them lying side-by-side that night. It was the night she had finally given herself to him, the night she said she'd never come back. He had laughed and that was it. That was the end of the conversation. The next day, she left for Manila, not to work, as the rest of their peers. She left with a scholarship for the country's top science high school. That was the last time he saw her. She never even wrote.

Now, he remembered, as he stood eating fish balls drowning in sauce and avoiding the oil fumes from the street vendor's frying pan. He imagined how it would be to meet her again.

"Miss," he'd say. And she'd turn around. She wouldn't recognize him at once, of course. It had been ten years since she last saw him, or even thought of him, he'd bet. Then he'd watch the recognition dawn in her eyes.

"Anna."

He looked different now. A scar cut across his left cheek. He was broader, taller, less of a son of farm worker, more of a man of the city streets. But she would know him by his eyes, despite the blood clots that hovered in their whiteness. She would know him by his eyes, remembering how intently he always looked at her - even when she laughingly spoke of running away to marry. She would know him again.

He stopped there and lit a cigarette, slightly embarrassed by his sentimentality. If he ever met her again, he knew what would happen. She would not know him. She probably would not even remember him, the 15-year-old that she was. She would not know him, but even if she did, she would be polite, yet patronizing. His broken English would be incomprehensible to her. She'd forget him as soon as he was out of sight.

And why wouldn't she? She had made something of herself. She had her education, her perfect second language, her work, her rich friends. She was so much more than the daughter of a dead washerwoman. In ten years, she realized her dream. And he?



He shuddered every time he thought that she might see one of those small, square pieces of painted metal, with his name and number and occupation. But would she even think of him? And what would she think of him? Disgust and shame, even if he had stopped that line of work years ago. Wasn't that why he had taken pains to take down every single sign and trace of his being a *tubero*? Wasn't that why he had strived to actually work, so that now, he was a legitimate hero, lifesaver, a fireman? He drew in a long whiff from his cigarette and cursed as watched the smoke rise before his face.

He hated this. He hated that he had come to Manila for her, that he had to sell himself to survive in Manila, that he had bought his body back through legitimate work so that he could begin to bear himself, and that even then, it didn't matter. It would not matter to her.

He hated her. He hated that she had everything she wanted, while he could not even bring himself to imagine how it would be to get what he wanted. He could not even bring himself to think of meeting her again. After all, what was the difference between a *tubero* and a *bumbero* to her? She was probably with some well-off, well-educated man, who was neither.

What he wanted most now was to be free of her. Now, he had the means to be free of her. He only waited for the signal.

He threw the cigarette butt on the pavement and crushed it with his heel, as he watched a young woman with pale eyes and short, dark hair alight from her car. He followed her with his eyes as she walked across the parking lot, into the back entrance of the building, till its white confines swallowed her slight form.

## ANNA

She entered the clinic and proceeded to Dr. Vicky's office. Vicky, as Anna called her now, had forgiven her for her so-called unethical practices or practice, since it was, technically, only one act. It was a gamble which she refused to back out of and which, seemed to turn out alright. Apparently, Lucia was cured.

"You're falling into such a novice trap, Anna, I think you should know better than that. Therapists should not get personally involved with their clients. Or at least, not like that!"

"But you've seen how she is, how she reacts when I'm there. You can see it, I'm sure. You can see her come to. She's all there, when it's just you and me. When her parents come along, she snaps back into some in-between state. And when we've separated, she's completely gone."

"We've given her medication."

"Medication isn't a cure for her disorder."

"There is no cure for her disorder. We're just trying to keep it under control."

"But there is a cure! We can stabilize Lucia's state without drugging her to a stupor!"

"That's not what we're doing."

"Yes, it is! Just look at her, she can't even respond. She's stopped asking questions. She's just stopped doing anything at all."

"It still doesn't justify what you intend to do."

"I am sorry, Dr. Vicky, but what I want to do is very justifiable. I only want to take her out of her house, away from her parents, away from her trauma, so her mind can have time to patch itself up without having to deal with the retardation that she gets because her parents treat her like a five-year-old. It's better than putting her in an institution, better than the drugs she's getting. *Doktora*, this might just bring her back!"

"You're still violating your therapist-client ethics."

"Well, ma'am, I am not her therapist and she is not my client."

Soon after that, she spoke to Lucia's parents. She told them the risks, the benefits, the possibilities, and her hopes. They all but gave a party when they delivered Lucia to her. Apparently, she was getting worse and worse at home. But did they provide for Anna and Lucia's needs. They gave Anna an apartment, a car, allowance, food, supplies - for Lucia, so she could take care of Lucia, they said.

Anna knew better, and wept in her less guarded moments. They didn't know what to do with her, Lucia. They might have just put her in an asylum, which would have broken her - yes, as what happened to Lucia's brother. But she was right, Anna was right, and everybody knew it. After only a year with Anna, Lucia was more lucid than she had ever been. The promiscuous, lewd Lucia no longer made any appearance.

At first, Lucia was like her daughter - at 20, Anna, the fresh, college graduate, had a daughter, a 15-year-old daughter! It was preposterous. Yet everyone who knew Anna knew that this was not just some whim. Even Vicky, after a while, began to agree with her young protégé. She watched them closely, as Anna tutored Lucia at their office, every day. After a year with Anna, Lucia was able to enter a regular high school, where she continued her studies. Vicky, Lucia's parents, and all Anna's friends were amazed.

That was five years ago. The 25-year-old Anna had become an accomplished therapist, a partner at Dr. Vicky's clinic, with clients lining up at her office. The 20-year-old Lucia was in college, functioning well, but she refused to be parted with Anna. Anna, in turn, did rather that she stayed.

They had grown to be better friends.

"Anna," said Vicky, as she gestured for her to hurry,

"There's a girl waiting for you. She's the pro bono case you've been waiting for." Vicky handed her the profile.

"Her name is Abby. And mind you, she's Muslim."

"And so?"

"You know what's happening, Anna. Even if we all think it's a load of bullshit, it's very true. Be careful, at least.



**She looked out the window, down at the people below, fire fighters, policemen, rescue crews, and bystanders. No one saw her. No one heard.**

We're Christian after all, even if we aren't part of any extremist Christian group."

"Does she identify herself as an actual freedom fighter? Is she part of a particular militant faction?"

"Yes, but she says she is no longer in the ranks, hasn't been since they had her turn her boyfriend in. And she did apply for our program. And you chose her profile. I spoke to her and the guards have searched her. It's safe enough. But be careful."

"Okay. I will."

*3:00 p.m.*

## LUCIA

Her cell phone rang in the middle of class, but her professor simply acknowledged her when she raised her hand and asked to be excused. She walked towards the door and shut it behind her.

"Yes, Anna?"

"Have you taken your medication?"

"Yup, all of them."

"Alright, just making sure."

"Of course. You'll be here by five?"

It was probably about five years now, five years of this conversation, every day at 3:00. Anna called when she was not with Lucia. When they were together, she gave the medication herself. And it was alright. It was no secret that she, Lucia, needed it, these daily reminders.

When she was fifteen, a little more than a year after she started going to Dr. Vicky's clinic, she began to understand that there was something wrong. She found that she forgot days and days at a time. One moment she was in the clinic, the next she was at home, and her mother was crying. Once, she came to, and she was out in the street sitting on the lap of a stranger, who called her by name - and screamed and yanked at her as she ran away. Fortunately, he was too drunk to move.

She couldn't understand it. She couldn't understand when Dr. Vicky would ask her about her dreams or her brother. What brother? She would ask. I don't have a

brother. I used to, but that was long ago. Didn't he die when I was very young? What dreams? Tell me what happened last night, Dr. Vicky would ask. Lucia would burst into tears.

"I don't remember," she'd say. "I don't remember anything."

"What do you remember?"

"I remember being awake. It was Saturday morning and Mother was cheerful. She helped me with English, 'cause I had to write a paper on *The Scarlet Letter*."

"And the next thing you remember?"

"The car, Mother was driving, and I was beside her. She looked worried, and seemed surprised when I asked her where we were going."

Dissociative Identity Disorder.

"Honey, you have Dissociative Identity Disorder. Do you understand what that is?" asked her mother.

She shook her head. "No."

"It means, that sometimes, somebody else is there, doing things. But it's not you. She has the same name - but she's very different. She's not the girl that you are. That's what happens when you suddenly don't remember anything," said Dr. Vicky.

Lucia stared at the floor, silent.

"What happens to me when that happens?" asked Lucia.

"You sleep, honey, that's why you don't remember anything. The other Lucia does things, which you don't know."

"What do I - does she do?" asked Lucia.

They didn't answer. She had an inkling of what it was that this other Lucia did, but she was too embarrassed to ask. That was, till Anna came along.

Anna came along and seemed to fix everything.

"Of course. You'll be here by five?" repeated Lucia.

"Yes, I'll see you then."

"Okay. I love you, Anna!"

She laughed, "I love you too."

## ABBY

She shut the door, softly. She waved good-bye to the staff, friendly and welcoming, each one of them. She wore no veil, for she was under disguise. It felt strange, this, her head bare, after all these years of hiding behind walls, and walls, and then the veil. It felt strange that she could feel the air stir her hair. She left the clinic as quietly as she had



entered, but not without scheduling the next session for next week.

The guards searched her again. She wondered if the clinic had warned them that she was Muslim. But she doubted that, everyone was treated like this since the outbreak of the outright-religious-war. Everybody was treated with suspicion.

She felt a slight pang of guilt in her chest. She coughed it out. But it was too bad, really. At any other time, they would have been good friends, she and this Anna. They would have talked about growing up in a provincial setting, and then moving to the city. They would have had long conversations about their younger sisters and their old lovers.

Yet the times called for radical measures. Anna was Christian and Christians, with their abuse and domineering ways, were the enemy. This was a lesson she would teach, which she and a dozen other freedom fighters would teach. The Muslims who were dormant here would learn courage. The Christians would learn fear, and maybe then, they would give respect. Radical measures were called for these times and no one would stand in the way.

Anna did not actually stand in the way, she thought. Yet she was perfect, a good girl, a hero, a rags-to-riches story celebrated by both the masses and the elite. Her death would ring bells that would reverberate in all hearts. Maybe, by some miracle, she would be spared, she and that girl she took care of. But Abby doubted that, for few were spared in this lifetime, both Christian and Muslim alike. She felt her gut twist into steel knots that ticked with a regular rhythm.

Maybe this was too much, unnecessary, to go and speak to one's intended victim - or sacrifice, as it were. Too superfluous, she already knew everything about her. But Abby wanted to make sure, to understand. She needed to carry this plan to its fullest. She needed to know Anna. She was not disappointed.

It felt good though, it felt good to speak truly and freely - although what she said was not wholly true. She did tell Anna of what she had done before, only she didn't say what she was going to do. She told her about the worst act she had done, and an act that would haunt her in her dreams - Lem, that was his name, the Christian man she loved, but had given over for her cause.

She told Anna of how he would come to her in her dreams and plead with her again and again. Come away with me, he said with a smile, we can live as pagans in a foreign land. But he was gone now, dead probably. He would not come for real and carry out vengeance. She told Anna of how, sometimes, she wished he would come back and threaten her.

Maybe this is what these Christians feel after confession.

When she stepped out of the building, she walked across the parking lot. She smiled at the old guard, who seemed to be used to the clients passing this way. Pro bono clients, she laughed inwardly. Pro bono clients, who were traumatized and ashamed! I would pass the front doors of this building veiled and praying to Allah if need be, she thought. Ashamed! I, a Muslim Freedom Fighter, Ashamed!

Casually, she picked through the cars that filled the parking lot, looking lost, scratching her head. Then, she

**"Honey, you have Dissociative Identity Disorder. Do you understand what that is?" asked her mother.**

**She shook her**

stopped and rested against a car, as if to catch her breath.

"Esteban," she whispered.

A head peeped from under the car.

"Tapos na," he said, and drew himself from under the car.

She handed him a handkerchief and nodded.

"Anong oras?" she asked.

"Lampas alas sais."

"Sige. At Esteban, pagkatapos nito, pasok ka na."

He nodded.

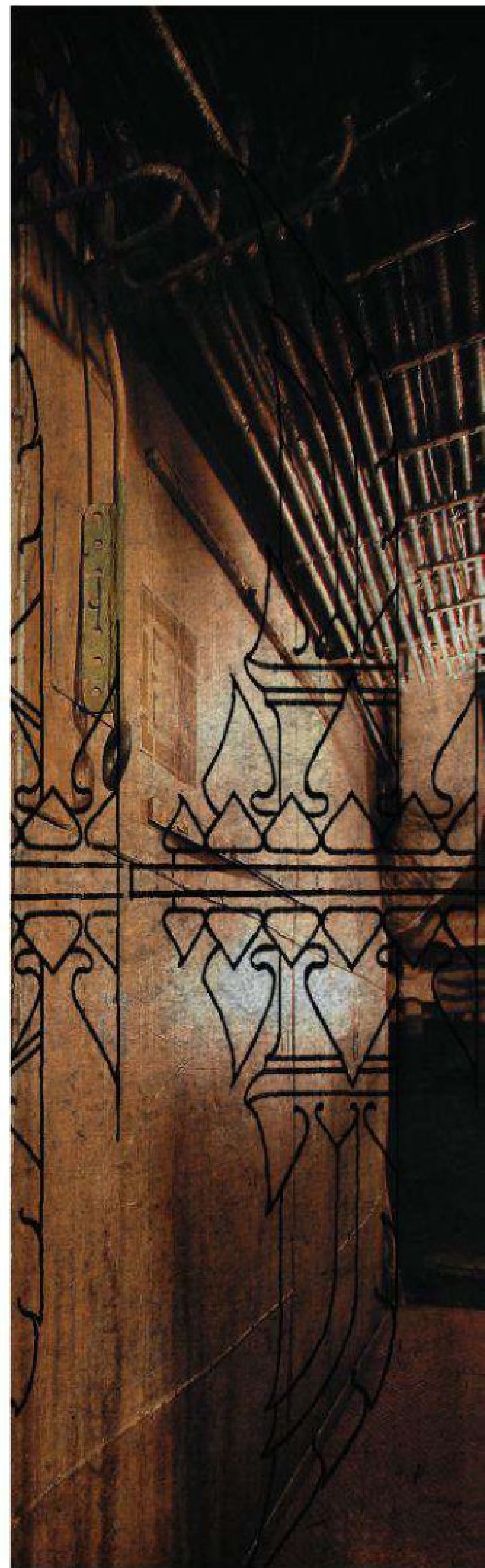
With that, she walked out of the parking lot, looking as confused and sad as she had three hours before. The guards gave her afternoon greetings, telling her not to worry, that the *Doktoras* knew what they were doing, and would be sure to help her. She smiled weakly at them and limply carried on walking, with her dusty plastic bag in her hand.

When she was a block away, she breathed a sigh of relief. Months of planning, research, and fine-tuning came down to this, three more hours of wait.

Then, she laughed and muttered, "Old lovers indeed."

*6:00 p.m.*

The sun left the skies and an early darkness held the heavens at bay from horizon to horizon. The few traces of twilight had faded, even from the low lying clouds. The







lights were slowly appearing, sprinkling the deepening shadows with tiny sparks. The avenues and streets, never left empty, were starting to accommodate even more of the smoke belching, gas burning vehicles that seemed to do nothing but wander aimlessly.

The throbbing life of this large animal – caged in its own refuse of polluted airs – was the same life of those machines that counted down seconds, that hung on walls, that stood with little legs on bedside tables, that were strapped on people’s wrists, that hung beneath Anna’s car, that was parked in its usual slot, there, in her apartment building. No one heard the tiny seconds that, unlike the others, counted down to a closure.

Ten.

Anna stirred the pan filled with stew.

Nine. Eight.

The rice went into the dish.

Seven. Six. Five.

“Lucia!”

Four.

“Come on.” Three.

“Let’s eat.” Two.

One.

The sound preceded the flames and the debris, striking fear in all for blocks around the building. Within seconds, flames began to grow out of the windows, rising higher and

higher, bringing with it an arid wind. Smoke issued from the upper windows, a solid, black smoke, swelling into a living darkness that melded with the night. Cry upon cry issued forth, as solid and as dark as the smoke.

When Anna came to her senses, she could hardly see the room. Smoke had grown into a thick veil, with a heavy, sickening scent. Her sight was no clearer when she stood. The dish of rice, the stove’s flame, gone, the window, where was the window? She ran to it, yanked it open, and breathed. Heat greeted her there, heat, dust, and soot, but air, glorious air, and below her ran people, hither and thither, scurrying ants in the night. Sirens and lights blared with the fires, undeterred by the water that shot like vomit from so many white serpents.

“Dito!” she screamed, waving her hands wildly, “*Tulong dito!!!*” No one heard her.

She ran to the door of her apartment and grasped the door knob. With a cry, she let go. She began to kick and pound at the door. Smoke and more smoke seeped in from under the door. The sound of her screams no longer seemed to come from her, but from some demon that sat on her shoulder, screaming straight into her ear. She could not get out.

Wait, Wait. Wait, Lucia.

Anna ran across the flat, stumbling over the fallen pieces of the ceiling, the furniture, all askew, grey dust, and everywhere, smoke.

“Lucia!” There she was, and the sight of her drew out what was left of Anna’s breath.

She sat at the edge of the bed, facing the window, back rigid, not minding the smoke and heat that had begun to build their dominion around her. She sat there, facing the open window, inhaling what little air she could. She sat there with her eyes open, blinking, staring, blank. Her empty eyes were devoid of spirit.

Anna ran towards Lucia and wrapped her arms around her. Lucia did not stir when Anna held her, when Anna buried her white face in the dark mess of her hair. She did not flinch at the heavy, warm breaths that pressed against her neck.

“Lucia, Lucia, wait. Lucia, come back,” whispered Anna.

If she did hear Anna, she made no sign.

Smoke wrung tears from their eyes – Lucia’s, dark, and Anna’s, pale. Anna could feel the flames lick the very threshold of the room. The walls formed beads of sweat. Outside the room, there were people beating at the walls, beating at the floors. The shrieks rose from under the debris, subdued, trodden underfoot. The explosion’s rumbles still reverberated up and down the five stories of concrete and steel.

Lucia did not move.

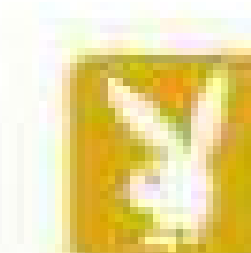
Anna unclasped her arms, helped Lucia stand up, and led her to the window. She followed, a limp-limbed marionette.

Anna leaned out the window again and screamed for help.

She looked out the window, down at the people below, fire fighters, policemen, rescue crews, and bystanders. No one saw her. No one heard.

None but two pairs of eyes watched her. One, with bitterness, had hands that held a fire hose. The other, with sadness, had hands that were clasped together, as if in prayer.

But they only watched.



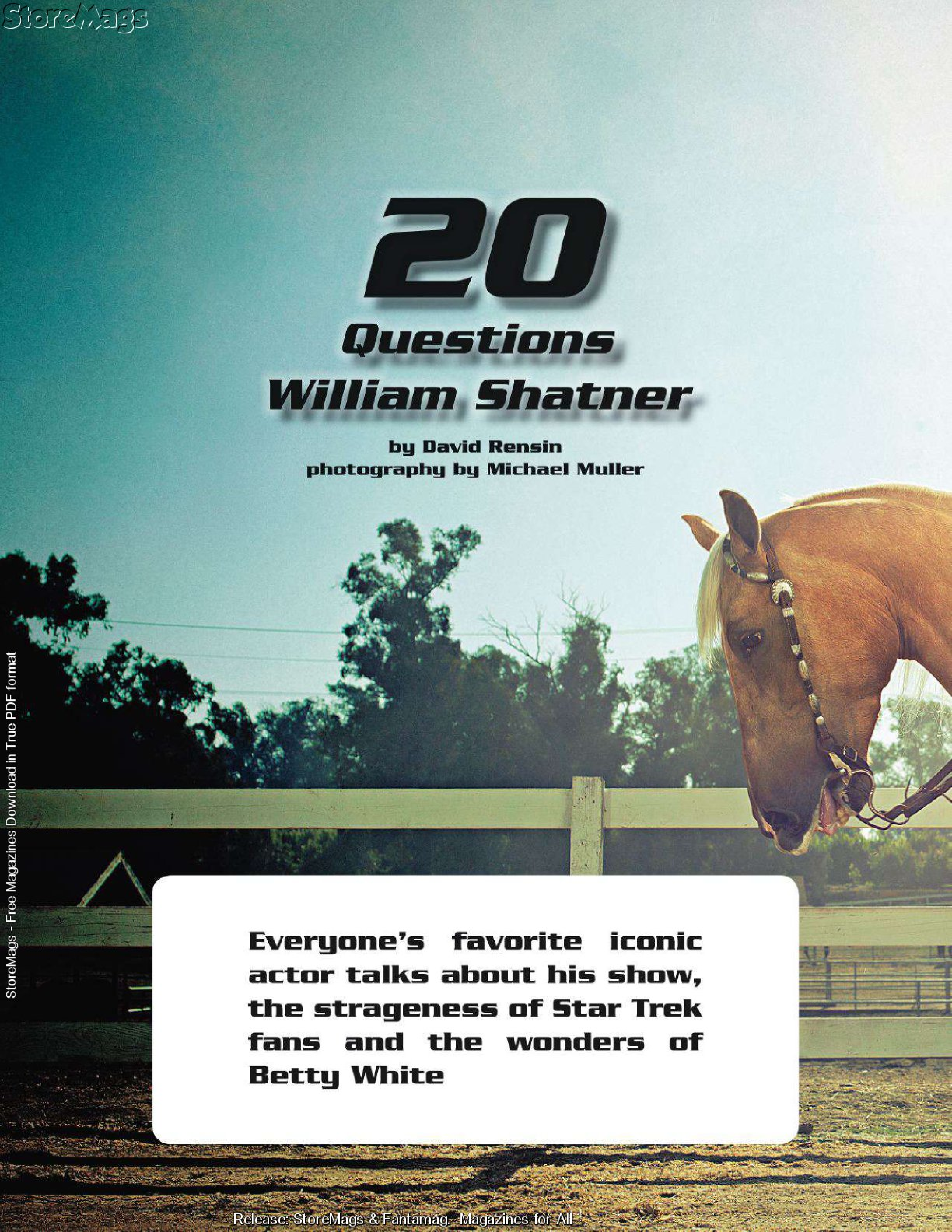


# **20**

## **Questions**

### **William Shatner**

by David Rensin  
photography by Michael Muller



**Everyone's favorite iconic actor talks about his show, the strageness of Star Trek fans and the wonders of Betty White**







## Q1

**PLAYBOY:** What memorable did your dad say to you?

**SHATNER:** "Don't go into showbiz, son. You'll be a hanger-on." He lived to see the beginning of *Star Trek's* success. Up until then he was very worried, as well he might have been.

## Q2

**PLAYBOY:** My Dad Says is your first sitcom. Still going where you haven't gone before, we see. Why?

**SHATNER:** I got an alarm clock. It's so good that I didn't know how to turn it on. When I was shown how, I couldn't turn it off. And I don't know how to program it. Then I saw an ad in an in-flight magazine for a \$19 alarm clock that you can speak to: "Wake me at eight tomorrow morning." I got that, too. An actor needs to get up on time, so it's always good to have a backup alarm clock. That's another thing you have to remembewr, along with the pills you have to take.

## Q5

**PLAYBOY:** As a bona fide TV pitchman, what ads speak to you these days?

**"The great human beings who contributed so much to our knowledge of any adventure the human mind has gone into have long been forgotten except by those few people who study them."**

**SHATNER:** They came to me and said, "Twitter. The kid and his father, a million and a half followers. CBS and Warner Bros. The guys who did *Will & Grace*, Max Mutchnick and David Kohan. Legendary director Jim Burrows." I was seduced. On the other hand, I jealously guard my time, so I was iffy. I said, "I've got to ride my horses, and there are all these other projects I want to do." They said, "Hey, this is a situation comedy. You read it, you go away, you come back. Tuesdays we'll block cameras. Wednesdays we'll shoot. You'll have a good time." I thought, Wow, if it's as easy as they say, this could be the answer to everything. Besides, it's the son's show. I'll be in the background. Well, they fired the first son and so I'm alone doing the publicity thing. Now it's my show, which is okay because I got funny for the pilot. I love to make people laugh. There's a precision to the laugh that is the equivalent of making a watch. Then it's instant gratification. You couldn't orgasm faster.

## Q3

**PLAYBOY:** What do you sing in the shower?

**SHATNER:** I keep trying to remember the words to the national anthem. At least I'm standing. Erect.

## Q4

**PLAYBOY:** Gotten your hands on any new tech gadgetry lately?

**SHATNER:** What about those sexual potency ads? The guys in them are what, 25, 26 a year or two past the full bloom of youth, so they need the pill? One thing confuses me: those ads with the couple in the bathtubs. When it comes to sex, hot water is the antithesis of what you want. It kills everything. All the blood vessels relax. You'd think you'd want to sit in a bucket of cold water just before meeting that girl.

## Q6

**PLAYBOY:** In the Priceline ads you're known as the Negotiator. What have you tried to negotiate for yourself in life that you've failed to secure?

**SHATNER:** Love. All my life except with my current wife. I won at that negotiation: "I'll give you my life if you give me your love," and she gave me more love than I gave her. That was my greatest negotiation. Is that because I learned something from my previous marriages? It's more what I've learned from the past 70 years: Walk up stairs carefully. Be even more careful coming down. That's my sound advice to anybody over 25.

## Q7

**PLAYBOY:** You'll be 80 next year. Betty White will be 89. What can a classy babe like Betty teach a young whippersnapper like you?



**SHATNER:** Did you have to mention my age? Did you have to remind me? *[pauses]* She's really old. I think of her as an old friend. I mean an old friend. But listen, she's got moves you wouldn't believe. She's totally flexible in the hip area. Her arms are stiff, but the hips? Totally flexible.

## Q8

**PLAYBOY:** On your interview show, Raw Nerve, you and your guests sit on an S-shaped couch. Does that stand for Shatner?

**SHATNER:** I designed the couch, but I didn't think of it as an S. You could also look at it as an infinity sign, and if you put a line through it, it would be a dollar sign. There's so much you can do with that shape. To me, it's a light wave. It's an oscillation. No, it's really all about the positioning of

**“I love to make people laugh. There's a precision to the laugh that is the equivalent of making a watch. Then it's instant gratification. You couldn't orgasm faster.”**

our bodies just shy of the cultural definition of that bubble of personal space. I want to be right on the edge. I don't want to make the guest uncomfortable, but I want to listen to everything he or she has to say.

## Q9

**PLAYBOY:** What have you learned from being an interviewer that throws light on all the times you've been grilled?

**SHATNER:** I recently read a magazine story about Tom Cruise. He was explaining the famous moment when he leapt on Oprah's sofa. I'm paraphrasing: “I wanted Oprah to feel the joy that I was feeling about this love I felt. I just bounded up on the sofa and I bounded back.” Afterward I thought, What is all the fuss about? He leapt onto a sofa. It was quite athletic. And so what? Everybody made like he had gone crazy. That's what every person I know who has been interviewed tries to avoid, that moment when they say, “Yeah, I did that, but what I meant was...” and people try to harm you or find something sensational in it. When I interview, I don't want any of that. I didn't ask Jon Voight about his daughter, Angelina Jolie, deliberately. I didn't ask Jenna Jameson about fucking, deliberately.

## Q10

**PLAYBOY:** Do you ever read any of that slash fiction about Kirk and Spock?

**SHATNER:** The erotic stuff? No. I've seen some references to it and some cartoons. *[smiles]* Wishful thinking.

## Q11

**PLAYBOY:** What Star Trek question do you never want to be asked again?

**SHATNER:** It's been 40-odd years since I was on the show, and I've been asked every question. I am fascinated by its continuous allure. It's a multifaceted jewel, some of which glimmers. I just came back from a convention in Vancouver, where six-year-old children would come by and the daddy would say, “Here's Captain Kirk!” Then of course there are those who ask, “Would you say ‘Beam me up, Scotty’?” while I've got spaghetti in my mouth. And so it goes on. The Star Trek questions are okay with me most of the time. I both get it and don't get it. Why are you still interested? But if you are, I get it, and here's the answer.

## Q12

**PLAYBOY:** On Star Trek, when you were younger you took off your shirt a lot. As Denny Crane on Boston Legal you dropped your pants a lot. Which is more satisfying?

**SHATNER:** I lifted weights for a while when I was on Star Trek and built a good body. And I've always been an athlete. Lately I haven't done what I should do, but I'm still in good shape and have terrific endurance. I can ride more horses in a day, in competition, than anybody. But that said, the muscles of my chest and arms when I was 25 have dropped to become rigid and beautifully formed muscles around my waist and rear end.

## Q13

**PLAYBOY:** In Boston Legal you and James Spader share cigars, scotch and man-love on the balcony in one of the greatest love affairs on television. Can you give us the short course on bromance?

**SHATNER:** When I'm available, which is fairly often, I have Monday Night Football at my house. I have an 11-foot screen. I order in good food, and 20 or 30 guys come over. We all yell and scream at Monday Night Football, eat the food and drink the beer. That's man-love. My wife, who's the great wife, will join us. In a certain way, in a fond nod in her direction, she's part of my man-love. I wished for it and got it, by some odd act of will.





## Q14

**PLAYBOY:** Careerwise you've gone from being promising to, sometimes, a punch line, to priceless. You're a master of self-parody. Is camp better when it's intentional or unintentional?

**SHATNER:** If it's not intended then it's unfortunate. That means you're totally unaware of the forces around you. There's something pitiful about that. I may have gone from promising to pitiful, but I don't think so. I think for the most part I've been aware of what I'm doing. I know sometimes people laughed at me, but if they were laughing at, say, the songs or the singing, I don't know why. I never presented myself as a singer. What I was—am—is a lover of poetry and the lyrics of poetry. You can take that as you will. I'm acting a song. If you don't get it, you don't get it. I get it, so I don't see the parody there. As for my way of speaking, which everyone parodies, that's not really me, as you may have noticed. The pausing was half acting, half desperately trying to remember the next line.

## Q15

**PLAYBOY:** You recently read excerpts from Sarah Palin's book on The Tonight Show. If you were Captain Kirk and you met Sarah Palin on another planet, would you hit on her?

**SHATNER:** She's a very attractive woman. Absolutely. Under very different circumstances.

## Q16

**PLAYBOY:** Tell us about your first cowboy hat.

**SHATNER:** I can't be specific, but I can give you an impression. I went to make a Western early in my career because of how much I loved horses. I thought, My God, if I could get paid for being on a horse and being in a





Western! So I got to be in a Western, and they handed me a hat. I remember looking at myself in that Western hat and thinking, This is ridiculous. I still looked like a Jewish kid from Montreal. It wasn't working. Until recently I didn't think Western hats and I went together. Now that I've been riding a lot of Western horses, my Stetsons have become sort of beaten up. As such, they've become part of me. And my face has broadened. I think you need a broad, Irish-looking face to look good in a Stetson. If you have a narrow little Jewish face, you just look like a dick with a big hat.

## Q17

**PLAYBOY:** Of what are you most proud?

**SHATNER:** Other than my wife and kids and grandchildren, I may be most proud of the fact that as a horseman I've begun to win. To win. I won a belt buckle as the top amateur in my skill on the West Coast, and two weeks ago I won a saddle as the top competitor—the top, the one who's made

the most points, which means I've won or come in second or third more times than any other amateur on the West Coast. I'm proud because it means I'm starting to see the results, the aggregation of all I've learned and practiced.

## Q18

**PLAYBOY:** How would you like to be remembered?

**SHATNER:** It's an empty wish, whether it's next week, next month or a maximum of five years, because there are people walking around now saying "Who's Cary Grant?" "Gandhi? What was he?" The great human beings who contributed so much to our knowledge of any adventure the human mind has gone into have long been forgotten except by those few people who study them and even they don't think of them as real. But if you take a mere entertainer who hasn't made a good movie, they're gone before they're dead.

## Q19

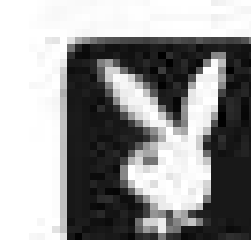
**PLAYBOY:** What has slowed you down that you wish hadn't?

**SHATNER:** My legs don't work the same way. I can't run like I used to. I dream about running. That's what the horses do. When I'm right with the horse, the horse is running for me. I've had a hip replacement, and my legs are a little weak. That's what has slowed me down. Nothing else. My blood pressure is incredible. I had an examination this morning for an insurance policy, and I'm great.

## Q20

**PLAYBOY:** At the end of your autobiography, *Up Till Now*, you write briefly about the great mysteries of life, including the question of whether you wear a toupee. Without saying if it's true or not, tell us: What instructions have you given for preserving the mystery after you're gone?

**SHATNER:** *[Laughs]* None. But since there's no mystery, I don't need to leave instructions. How's that for an answer?











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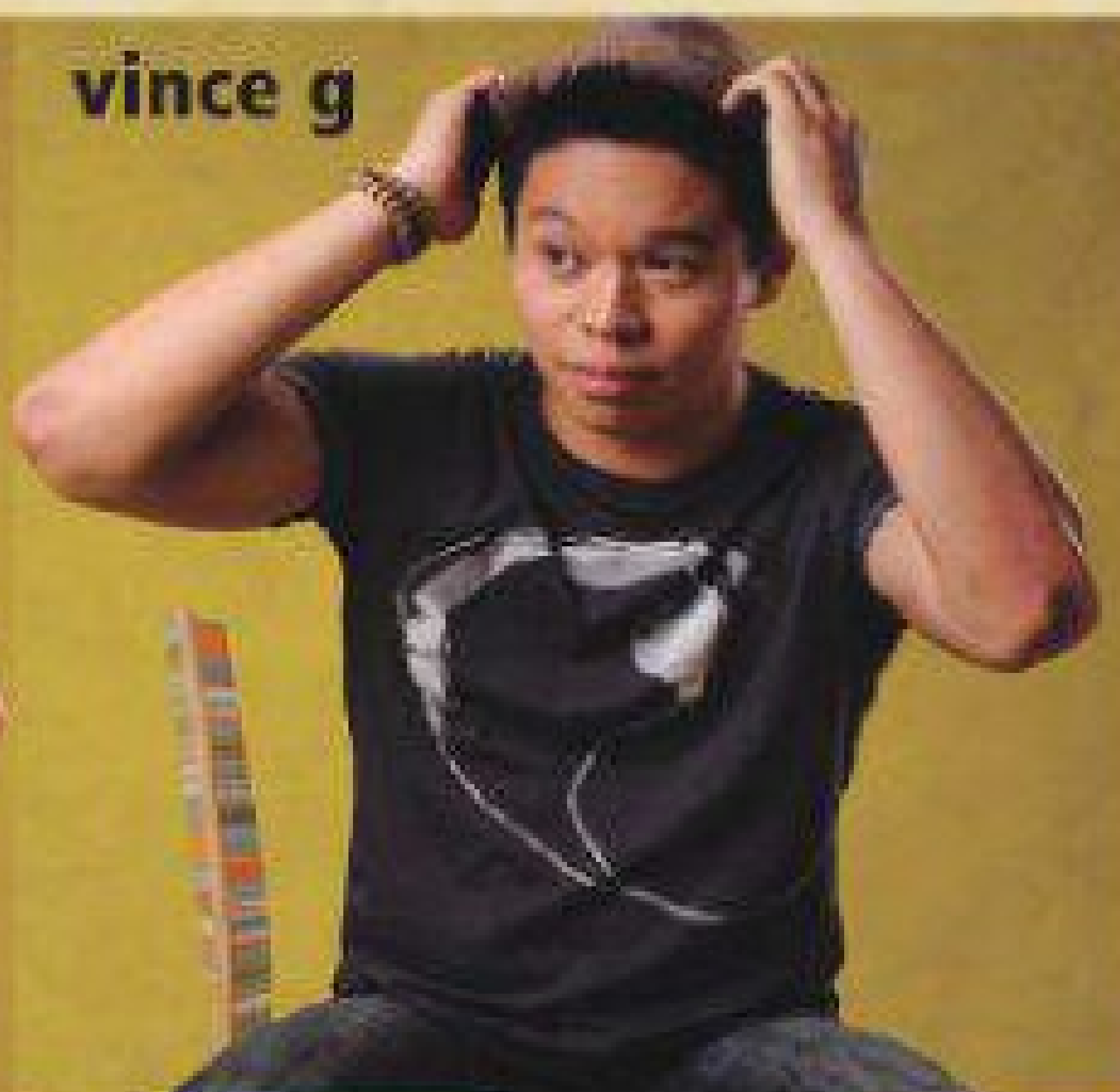
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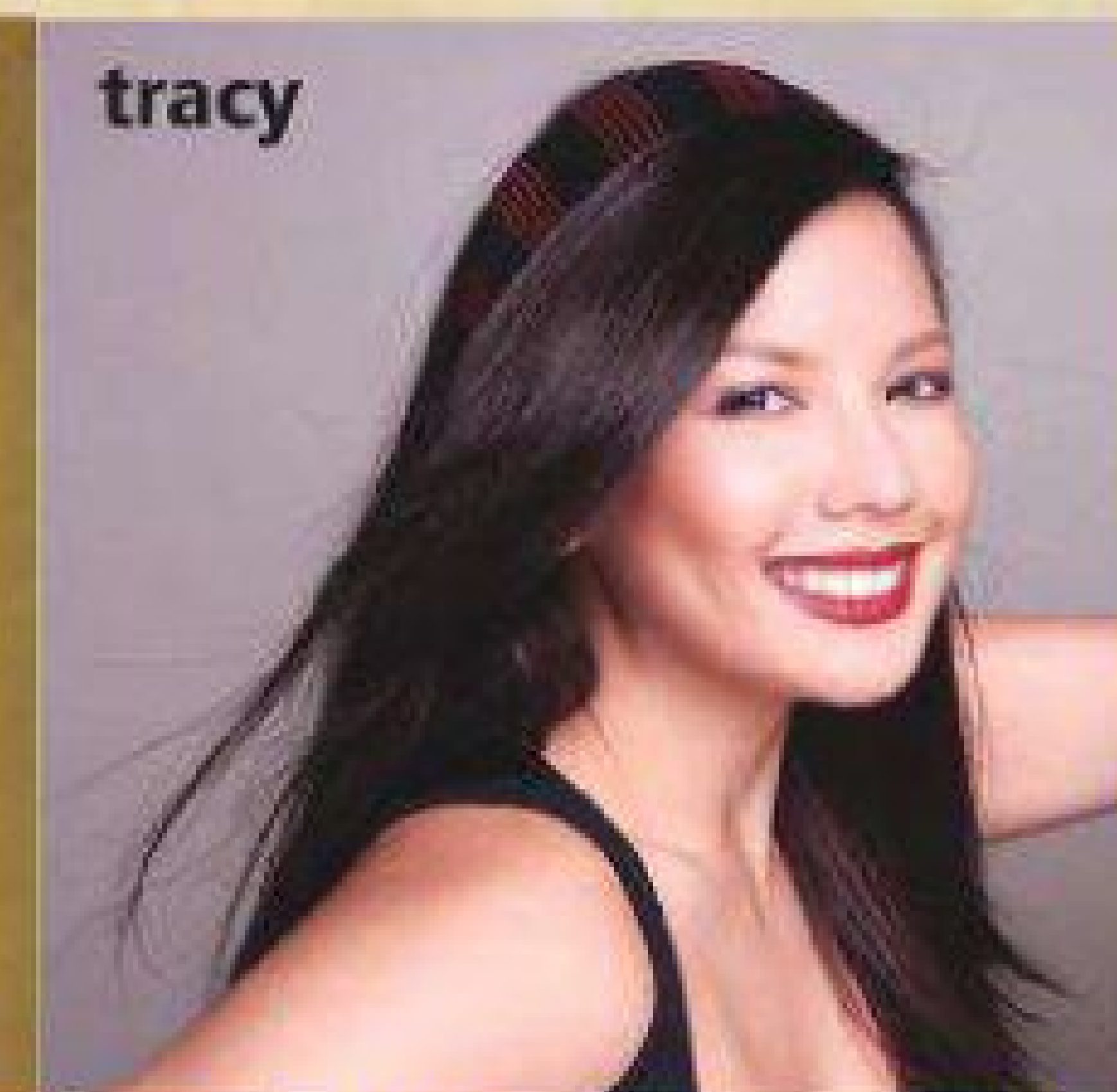
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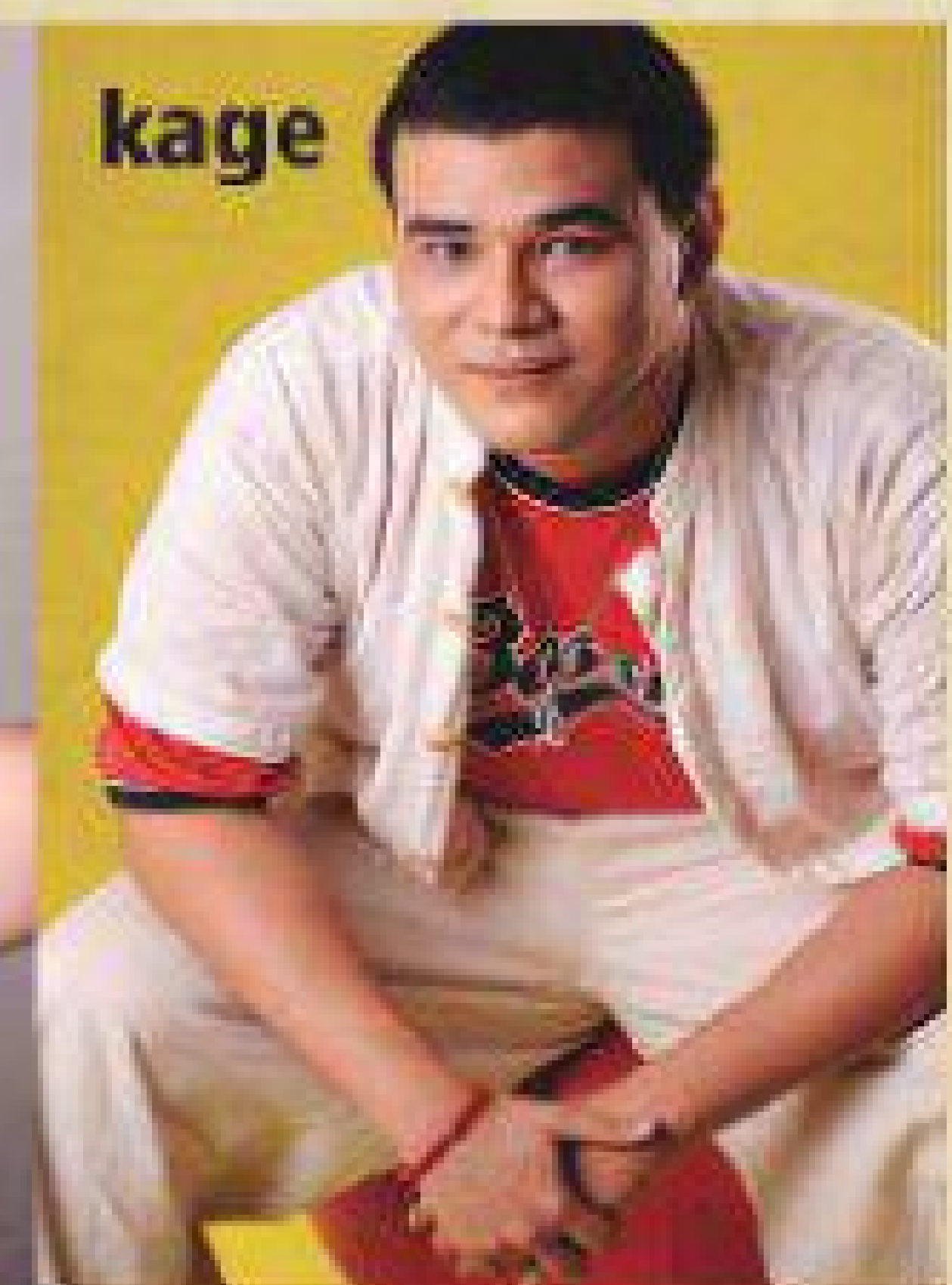
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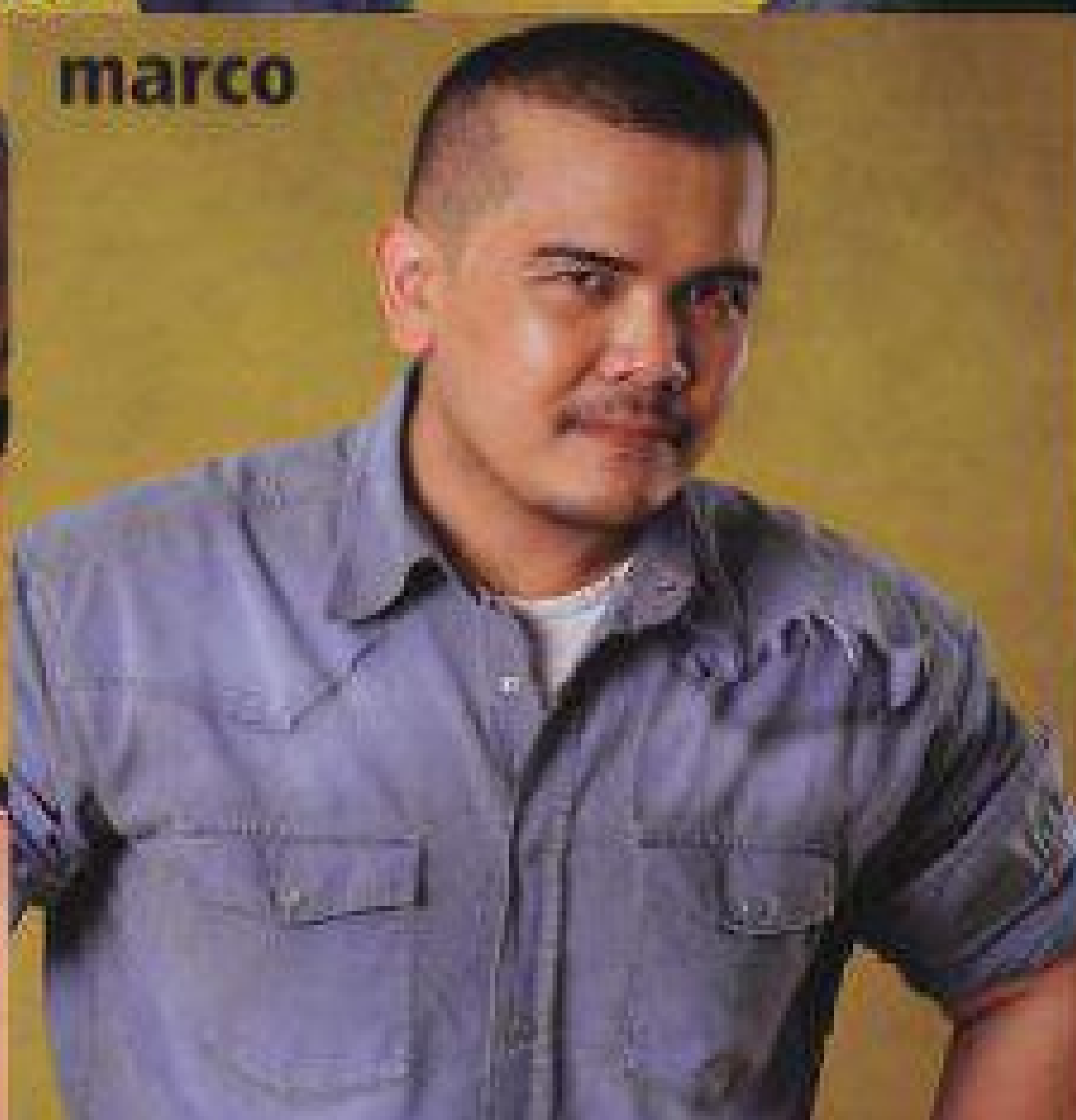
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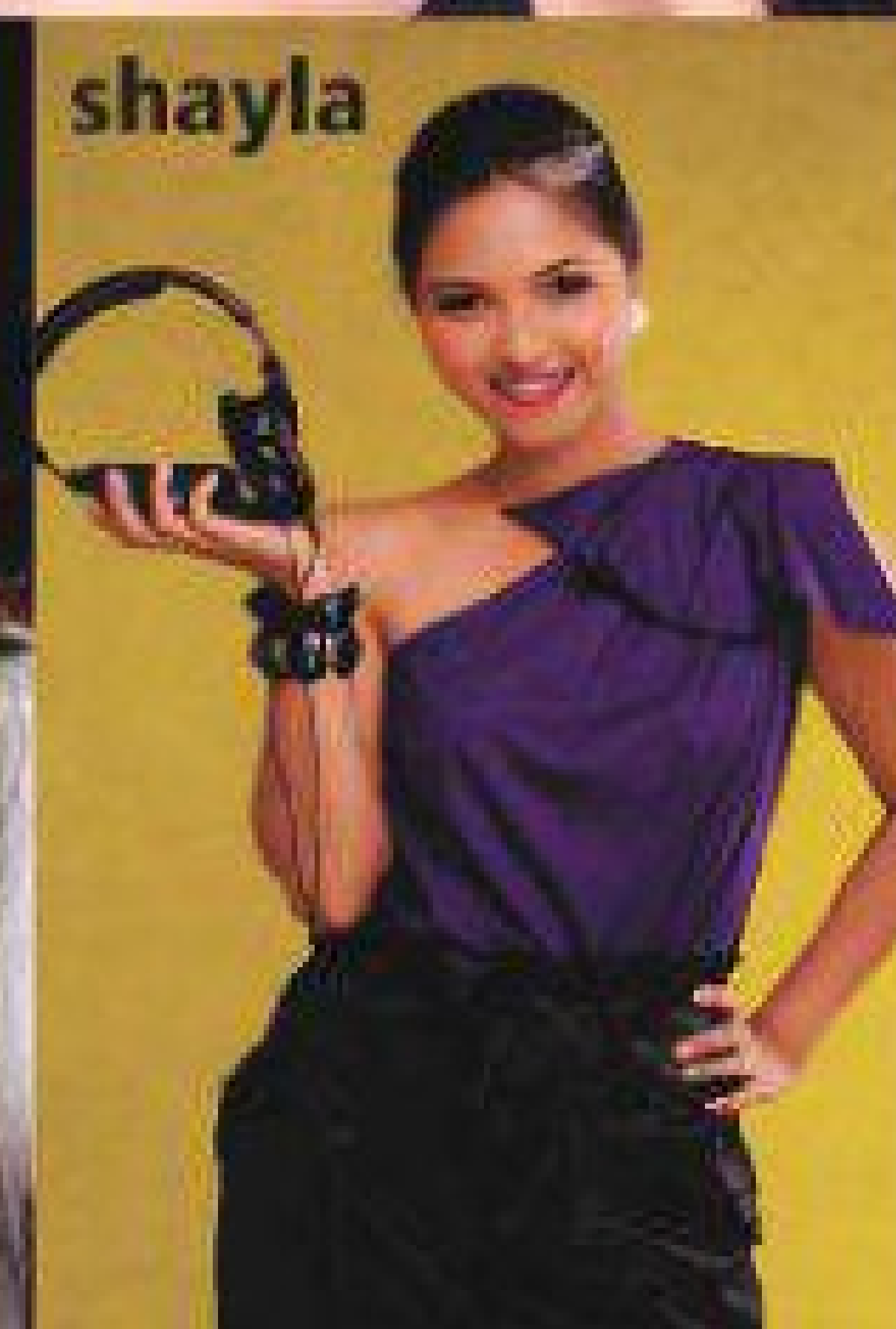
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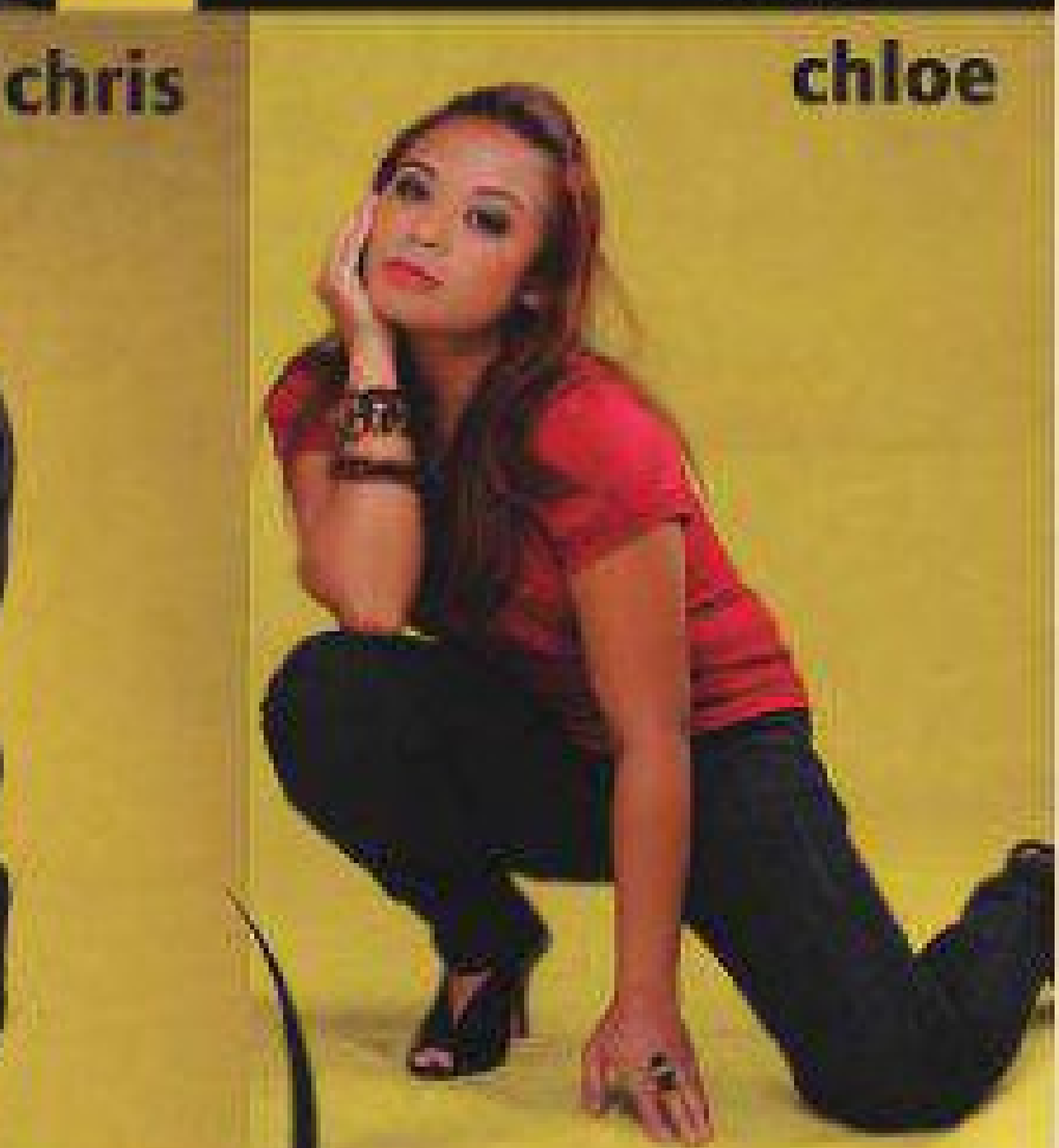
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# SOMEWHERE IN POLAND

In the heart of Central-Europe lies the Republic of Poland, a beautiful country with grand, picturesque sceneries, rich in history and culture. Its past, built in stone and blood, was an epic struggle for sovereignty and self-determination. Countless wars had taken place in Poland; as a state it had disappeared, partitioned and annexed by neighboring regimes, was the first struck by the Nazis and later had been under the control of the Soviets. Yet today, modern Poland has risen to be one of the most developed countries in Europe and the world. The Slavic nation is also famous for the birth of heliocentric cosmology, from the works of Renaissance astronomer Nicolaus Copernicus – it states that the planets in a solar system and all life on them revolve around a great mass of heat.

Europeans are an interesting lot. You see a lot of them, pure or of European descent, scattered in the metro, particularly in Makati City, as well as at our favorite holiday destinations. Tall, fair-skinned people whose eyes and hair come in different hues, sometimes speaking in unfamiliar tongues, sometimes resembling our favorite movie stars, we island-kids delight in having them around, and in how they've learned to love the Philippines one way or another. They make the best exchange students, are really fun to take out on trips and have many extraordinary stories to tell. European women are doubly interesting and delightful, as well as mysterious. Given, the language and cultural barrier makes them even more difficult to decode, one need not be a traveled linguist to enjoy their company (although being a cultured polyglot wouldn't hurt). Strange new worlds, after all, are the ingredients of adventure. This particular quest goes by the name of Ewa Wodzińska.

The English-speaking world knows little to nothing about her. But there are a few clues. The correct pronunciation of her name is Eva, as the letter W in the Polish language is read with a V sound. She hails from Warsaw, the nation's capital and its largest city. It is also known as the Phoenix City – suffering from near-total destruction at the hands of the Third Reich during World War II, it has since recovered and blossomed into a vibrant hub of Polish life. She was born a Taurus, known to be patient, reliable, warmhearted, persistent, determined and placid people. On the offhand they could be jealous, possessive, resentful, inflexible, and self-indulgent. It's 2011; after resolving to be more hopeful and realistic, we're leaning towards the plus side of things.

Her ambition is to become a TV presenter – exactly what it means is uncertain, due to the rather general description of her work, but it would be nice to imagine her on news and current affairs, if not a VJ. She likes her apple pie, and prefers men with a good sense of humor. How Filipino men would rate on her scale, we may never know. She isn't particularly fond of Warsaw traffic jams (is anyone), which may make a day in Manila particularly intolerable for her, if she gets stuck on local roads.

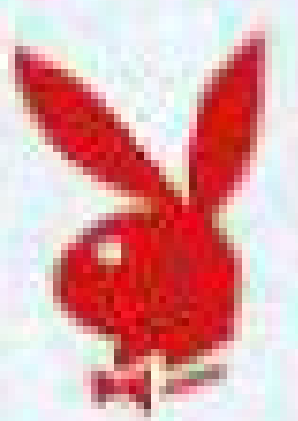
That's all that could be gathered on this lovely piece of work so far. A trip Warsaw, maybe Kraków or Lublin, could enlighten us further, perchance even afford a rare encounter. The world is vast and full of color and people.







INTERNATIONAL WOMEN OF PLAYBOY









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# Playmate Update

## HACIENDA

If you ought to enjoy seeing in Haciendas those beautiful hacienderas, why I bet you wouldn't ask for more if you were at the opening of Hacienda super club too. We replaced all the supposed fresh air with our energy as we partied the PLAYBOY way! All thanks to the big men who made the night fun as ever.



## CALAYAN

The Playmates are in full support for our loved Doctors, Manny and Pie Calayan. Not only did we enjoy the food but we also shared the night with our favorite girls, the Pretty Young Thing. Congratulations to the Calayan group for a wonderful 2010!





# Playmate Update



## PLAYMATES NIGHT OUT

Why yes, every month this part is written down just because we live to party! Playmates Billy, Echo, Rhea, Joyce and I have been painting the town with a burst of red. We absolutely live happy! And I tell you, the year of the Rabbit is bound to be more fun!



## BUSINESS MIRROR

Who says that the Playmates cannot love newspapers? Our friends from the number one business` spread in the Philippines invited us for the awarding of their Golf Tournament. Once again, we awarded with more applause than the room could ever deserve. Good job Business Mirror!

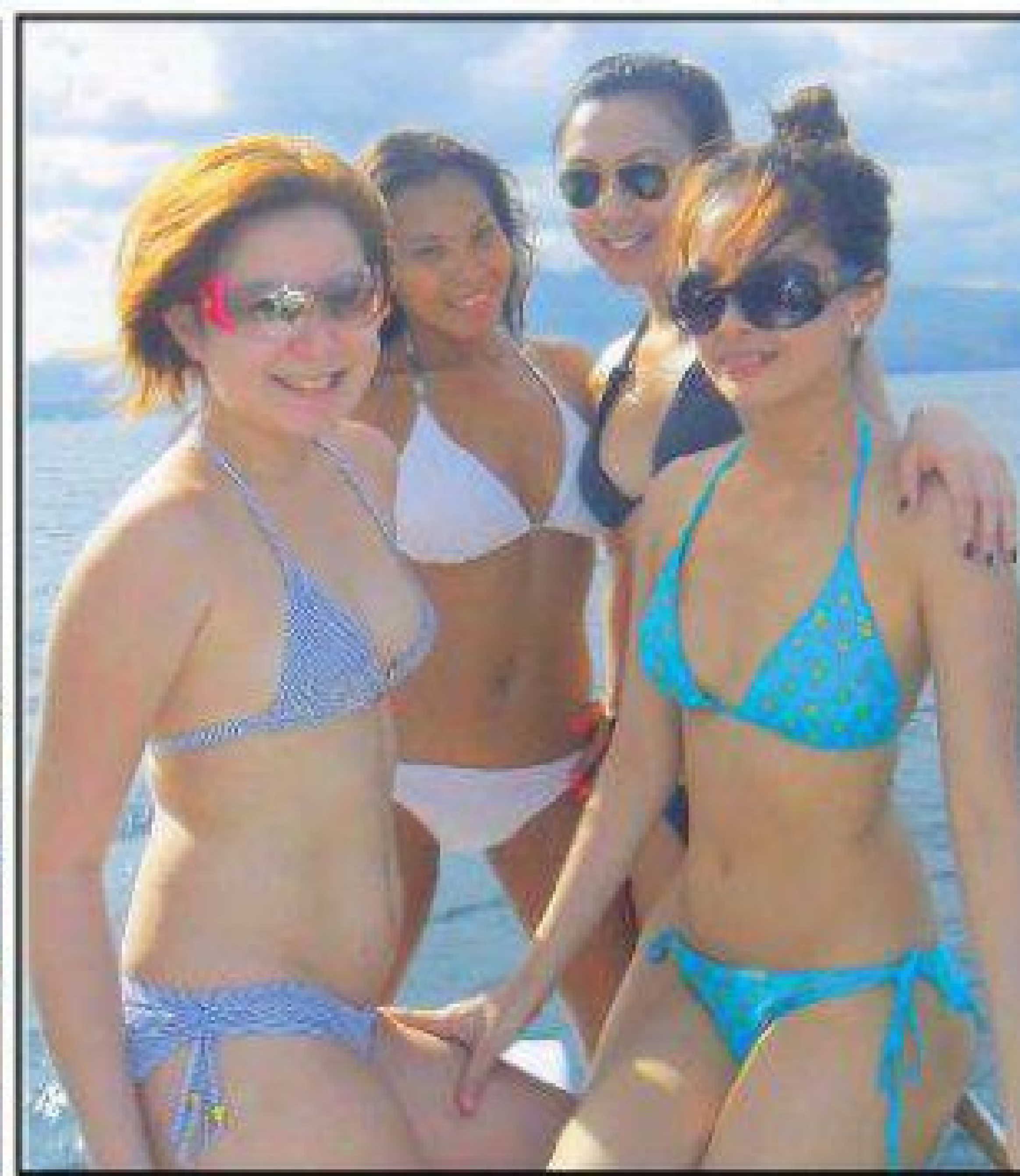
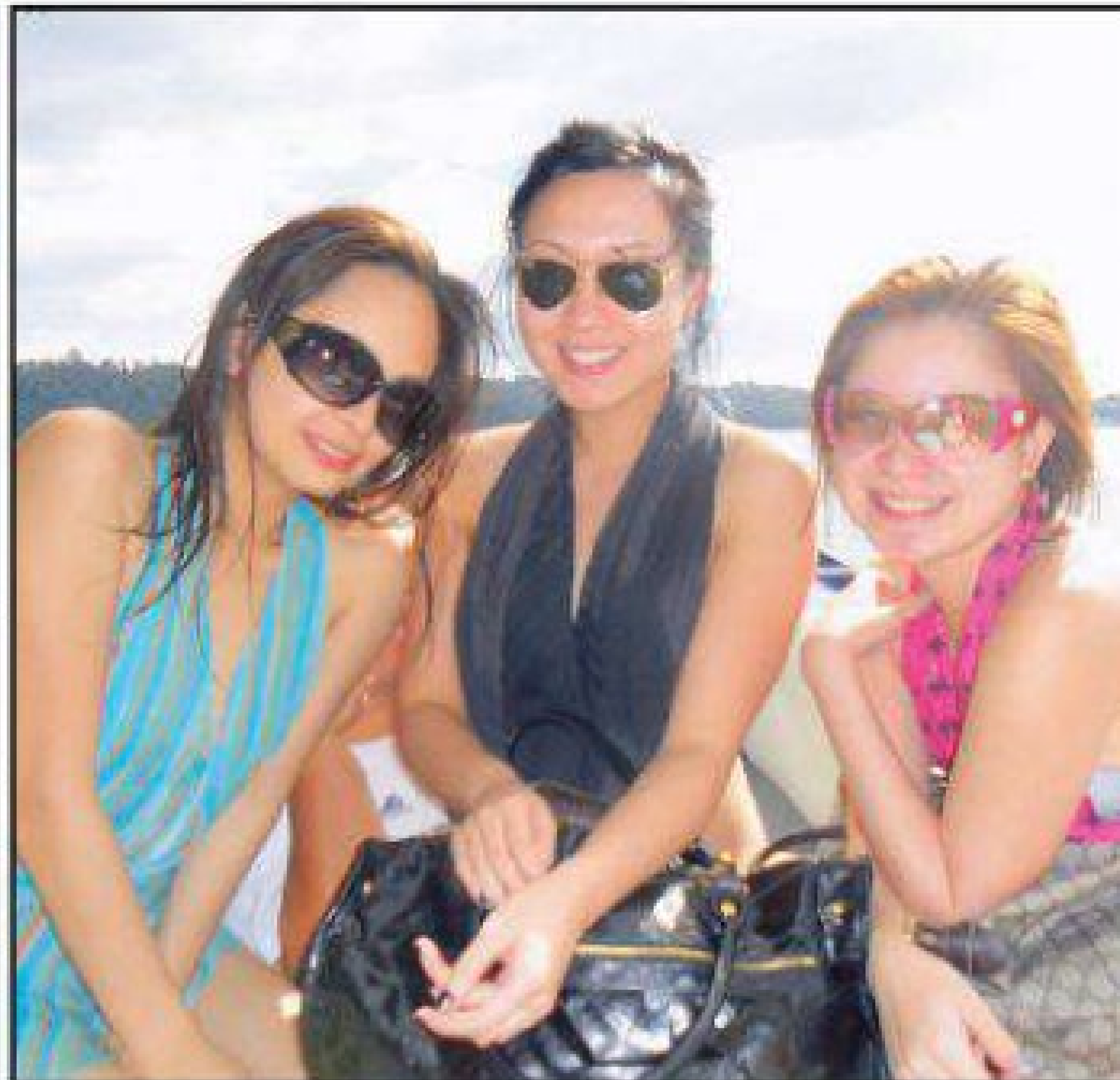




# Playmate Update

## THE HOTTEST WEEKEND

You know the weekend that you can't wait to have because you're too young for it? Guess what? The PLAYBOY Playmates are definitely grown for this. Playmate Echo, Joyce, our lovely Playmate of the Year, Billy and one of our models, MJ went for a weekend when we celebrated youth, love and sexiness! Going around on a yacht with the girls made us see the green pastures seem... greener! I love PLAYBOY!



## THE KNOCKOUT

Manny Pacquiao is probably everyone's favorite Filipino. We didn't just catch him else where, we had a courtesy visit to our favorite Congressman at the House of Representatives. Playmates Echo, Rhea, Joyce and I enjoyed meeting the world's number one champion boxer!





# Playmate Update

## THE AWESOME SHOW

After a few months of being on board at my favorite radio station that is 99. RT, you can still catch me every Fridays from 3 to 6 in the afternoon. Yes! I haven't destroyed any part of the booth yet, even having to be known as the giddy Playmate. Thank you for all the support! I love you all.



## 2011 BANGING

Congratulations to the hottest girl who welcomes us to a great 2011 with a banging calendar! Playmate Echo is the new face of Izuzu Philippines. The Playmates are definitely taking on a new lead as we move on to a new year! We love you Echo!



## INTRODUCING PLAYMATE JOYCE



If all you see of the newest Playmate is anything naughty, then you have to know that this sexy dancer can not just strip tease in to your imagination, she can sing as well! You would certainly be catching more of her in the next events that will be presented by Playboy Philippines. Oh, and make sure you bring any thing with the face of Hello Kitty, she goes gaga over that!



*By Playmate Sky*



2008



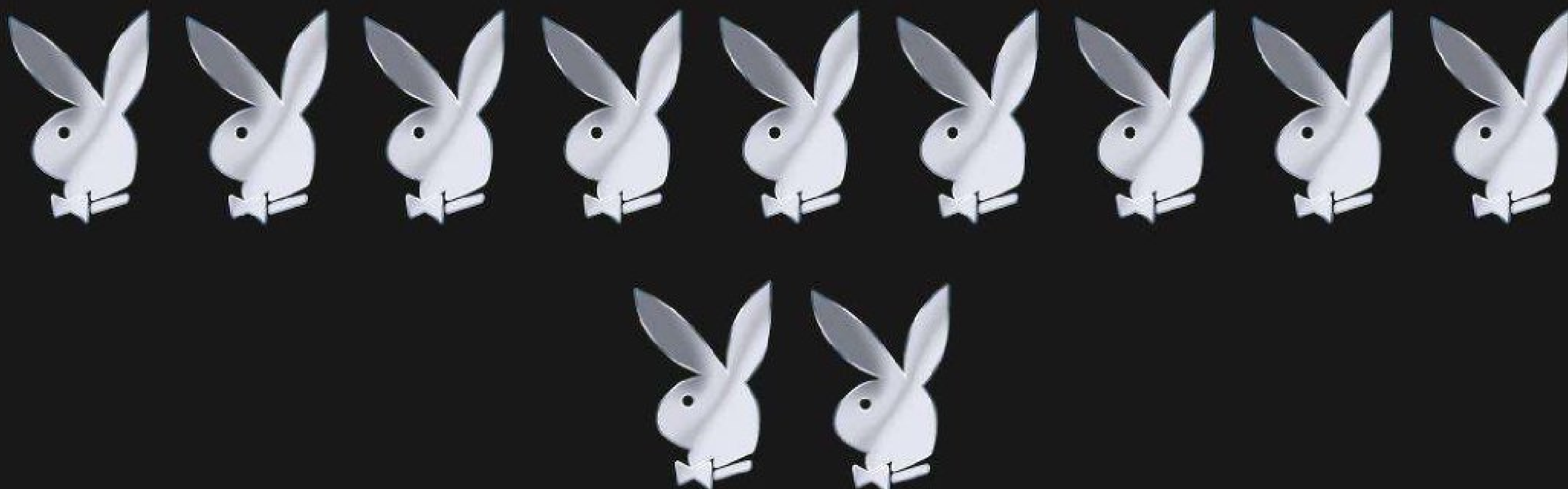
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# Playboy News

## PGH

Playboy has the heart of reaching out to others. We are grateful to our Nov/Dec. cover models and lovely playmates for joining us in delivering our courtesy visit to one of the most recognized and biggest hospital in the country, PGH. To Dr. Gregorio Alvion, Dr. Rolando Enrue Domingo, Director, Dr. Micheal Tee, Assistant Director for public affairs, Raymond Alonso, Head of PGH Dialysis Unit, and the rest of the hardworking doctors, rest assure that the PB Family will continue to support your foundation!





# Playboy News

## RADIO TOUR

Ending year 2010 with a BANG! Our 3 gorgeous cover girls Zara Lopez, JC Parker, and Mercedes Cabral, with Playmate Joyce Burgos, hit the airwaves during their radio tour. Alongside are the lovely 2010 Playmates Echo, Sky and Playmate of the year Billy.



## Where & How to Buy

Below is a list of retailers and manufacturers you can contact for information on where to find this month's featured merchandise.

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